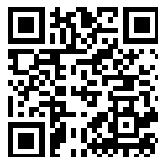
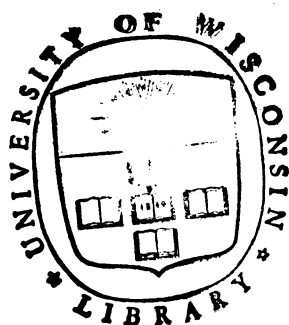

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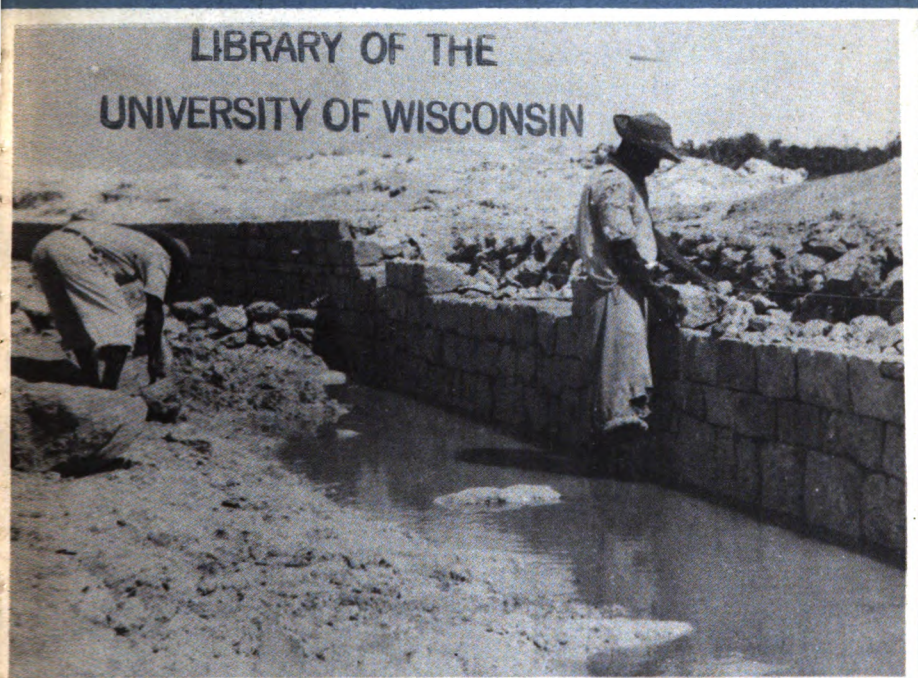
1948



COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Turks & Caicos Islands 1948

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1948.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1948 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).

COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

FOR THE YEAR
1948

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MAP

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1949

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Cover illustration :—Rebuilding a canal in the
Great Salina at Grand Turk.

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PART I

Review of 1948

THE year 1948 was one of exceptional interest from many points of view. During January Dr. A. J. V. Underwood, a consultant chemical engineer, was sent out by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to review the plans made for reorganising and rehabilitating the salt industry and to prepare a report. Dr. Underwood was accompanied by Mr. D. M. Rait, the chief mechanical and electrical engineer of the Jamaica Public Works Department. A very thorough survey of the industry was carried out and an exceedingly interesting report was received in the early part of May. As a result of Dr. Underwood's report the Commissioner proceeded to London in May for consultations on the rehabilitation of the salt industry. At the same time he had discussions about the Dependency's Development Plan.

The salt industry has been declining for a number of years and its rehabilitation presents two main problems. The first of these is to bring the whole industry under unified control; the second is to secure the large funds needed to develop and modernise production and shipment of salt. The Commissioner's consultations in London on the salt industry were largely with a view to interesting the Colonial Development Corporation in taking over and running the industry. At the close of the year negotiations were in an advanced stage.

The Development Plan for the Dependency was also discussed in detail while the Commissioner was in London, and by the end of the year the Secretary of State had notified his approval of the Plan subject to certain provisos. The principal schemes provided for under the Development Plan are :

- (a) Agricultural improvement and experiment. Earlier agricultural schemes have been running since 1938 but have not proved as successful as had been hoped. It is therefore proposed to await the visit of an agricultural expert before formulating detailed projects. Meanwhile, funds have been ear-marked in the Plan for agricultural improvement and experiment and, together with those remaining under the earlier scheme, will be devoted to a new scheme based on up-to-date expert agricultural advice. It is expected that a visit by an agricultural expert will be possible in the early part of 1949.

- (b) The improvement of the standard of education, particularly of elementary education. Elementary education is free and compulsory on the three principal islands but its standard is deplorably low, chiefly because of lack of funds. The education scheme provides for the appointment of supervisory staff, teacher training, improvement in salary scales and housing of teachers, and improvement and reconstruction of school buildings. It also provides for additional equipment for the schools. As a start, an extremely useful teacher-training course was held in June by a Senior Inspector of Schools from Jamaica. There is a growing realisation of the pressing need for better education in the Dependency and the local Board of Education was active throughout the year.
- (c) The complete reorganisation of the public health services. The existing buildings are deplorable and there is insufficient trained nursing staff. The one hospital at Grand Turk is far below the minimum acceptable standard, and the Medical Officer in the Caicos Islands works under great disadvantages. There is one clinic operating in the Caicos Islands in a rented building. The Plan provides for the training of nursing staff, the construction of two small modern hospitals at Grand Turk and South Caicos and of five clinics, one at Salt Cay in the Turks Islands and four in the Caicos Islands. Quarters have already been provided for the Medical Officers. The Plan also provides for the removal of lepers to Jamaica for segregation and treatment, and for an experiment in house construction.
- (d) The training of social welfare workers and the rehousing of juvenile delinquents ; plans for social welfare are very much limited by lack of funds.
- (e) Miscellaneous Schemes. This heading covers a number of exceedingly useful minor schemes. A new lantern was provided during 1948 for the Grand Turk Lighthouse, and an unattended flashing light is under construction in the United Kingdom and will be erected on Great Sand Cay. To complete the improvement in navigational aids new harbour lights have been ordered for the three ports of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and these are to be paid for from the funds of the Dependency. Another extremely useful minor scheme which was approved several years ago was for the extension of the sea wall at Grand Turk. The wall itself was completed before the end of 1948, but a certain amount of related work still remains to be done. The Plan also provides for a wireless receiving and transmitting set for the Caicos Islands and for additional staff required to implement the Development Plan.

The following is a financial summary of the Plan by heads :

<i>Head</i>	<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	<i>Residual Recurrent Expenditure</i>
	£	£	£
Agriculture . . .	2,385	7,282	1,685
Education . . .	13,200	8,547	1,575
Public Health . . .	25,300	14,100	3,039
Salt Industry . . .	3,118	—	—
Social Welfare . . .	460	1,500	300
Miscellaneous . . .	13,598	7,360	605
	<u>£58,061</u>	<u>£38,789</u>	<u>£7,204</u>

SUMMARY OF PLAN INCLUDING REORGANISATION OF THE
SALT INDUSTRY AND ALLOCATION TO RESERVE :

Capital . . .	58,061
Recurrent . . .	38,789
Reserve . . .	3,150
Salt Industry . . .	50,000
	<u>£150,000</u>

The most significant figure is that showing the estimated residual annually recurrent expenditure after the cessation of assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In effect, a sum of more than £7,000 a year must be found by the Dependency when the schemes for improving social and other services have expired in five years' time. It is extraordinarily difficult to forecast future revenue in the case of a Dependency with a small annual budget. All that can be said is that after careful calculation it appears that the Dependency will be able to bear the added financial burden. The standard of living, of social services and the general level of amenities in these islands is still very low, but there has undoubtedly been a great improvement in the economy of the islands due largely to the much greater salt exports. If the plans for expansion of the industry are successful, there should be a further great improvement in the economic position of the islands and in the standard of living.

A 16 millimetre cinema projector was donated by the British Council during 1948 but had not arrived at the close of the year.

The Turks and Caicos Islands were separated from the Bahama Islands in the year 1848 and a short issue of seven postage stamps was brought out in December to commemorate the centenary.

PART II

Chapter I : Population

THE last census was taken in 1943 when the population of the Dependency was 6,138.

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent	122

The estimated population in 1948 was 6,500. Females exceed males in number.

The population of the principal islands is estimated to be :

Grand Turk	1,800
Salt Cay	400
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	800
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	1,600

The births and deaths registered during the last eight years were as follows :

	<i>Number of Births</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Death rate per 1,000</i>
1941 . .	215	131	38.6	23.54
1942 . .	223	103	42.1	19.5
1943 . .	244	103	39.7	16.8
1944 . .	209	99	34	16.1
1945 . .	249	234	38.9	36.54
1946 . .	204	93	31.3	14.3
1947 . .	220	82	36.7	13.4
1948 . .	195	88	30	13.5

The rates up to 1942 are based on the census of 1921, and from 1943 on the census of 1943. The number of females exceeded the number of males by 19.9 per cent. at the time of the census.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1948 was 25, equal to a death-rate of 128.2 per 1,000 births ; and in 1947 the corresponding figures were 26 and 118.2 per 1,000. Thirty-six marriages were registered in 1948.

The emigration and immigration figures for the year under review were :

Entered	173
Departed	289

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

The demand for labour is principally confined to that required in connection with the salt industry and does not exceed 200 men. The demand is to some extent seasonal. But the much greater exports of the last two years have tended to make work in the industry almost continual. One of the principal reasons for the proposal to rehabilitate this industry and bring it under unified control is the need to provide regular and better-paid employment. The difficulty in raising wages to allow for the great increase in the cost of living lies in the continuing low world price of salt. The actual shipping of salt requires considerable additional labour which is found by the temporary employment of fishermen, artisans, tailors and the like. Rates paid for shipping are good and the supply of this casual labour exceeds the demand. Some women are employed, when salt is shipped, to fill the small half-bushel bags which are used for loading lighters. The employment of women for this work is, however, less common than formerly.

There was an increased amount of employment on steamers, and some labour is required by the salt industry at Inagua and in the lumber industry at Abaco, both in the Bahamas. Unemployment has been severe for many years, and there is a tendency for the best men to leave the Dependency whenever a chance of employment elsewhere occurs. The improvement in employment in 1947 continued during 1948.

Employers are not responsible for housing or feeding their employees. There is no workmen's compensation act (one is now in preparation) or unemployment insurance scheme. There is a Minimum Wages Ordinance. There has been a tendency for wages to rise and the general level is well above the legal minimum rates.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a day of nine hours and from 10s. to 15s. a day when shipping it. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 7s. to 10s. a day of nine hours. The few lorry drivers earn 7s. to 8s. a day.

In domestic service the wages vary from 30s. to 50s. a month for female servants, usually with rations. Employment of males as butlers, etc., is now rare. Payment of wages in goods from the stores of the salt proprietors is no longer prevalent.

The cost of living has risen by about 100 per cent. since the outbreak of war, and in the same period labourers' wages have risen about 70 per cent. Since 1942, His Majesty's Government has generously granted an annual subsidy. But for the subsidy so far granted, the cost of living would have mounted to 140 per cent. above pre-war prices. The biggest single cause of the increase has been the impossibility of obtaining direct shipments of foodstuffs from Canada and the United States of America which were the natural sources of supply in pre-war years. Until recently, all supplies

have had to be obtained from Jamaica. Handling and trans-shipment from Jamaica is estimated to increase the cost of items imported by about 30 per cent. over the direct landed cost. During 1948, however, a limited amount of direct shipment from New York was carried out with immediate savings in landed costs.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years :

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	£	£
1944-45	34,815	30,562
1945-46	64,069	53,307
1946-47	61,701	69,945
1947-48 (Revised Estimate)	39,838	50,760
1948-49 (Estimate)	56,773	46,805

The financial year 1948-49 opened with a deficit of £4,738 and is expected to close with a surplus of £5,230. The depletion of the surplus funds of the Dependency was largely due to expenditure on hurricane relief.

There is no public debt, but the operations of the Food Control Department are financed by an interest bearing advance made by the Jamaica Treasury.

The main items of revenue for the financial year 1948-49 are estimated as follows :

	£
Customs Duties	10,502
Royalty on Salt	4,500
Port Dues	800
Internal Revenue	945
Fees of Court and Office	245
Departmental Revenue	230
Reimbursements	1,459
Post Office	25,225
Interest	100
Miscellaneous Receipts	875
Colonial Development and Welfare	10,842
Extraordinary Revenue	1,050

The main items of expenditure for the financial year 1948-49 are estimated as follows :

	£
Pensions	647
Commissioner's Department	4,550
Treasury and Customs	3,201
Judicial Department	1,063
Police and Prisons	2,389

	£
Prisons	1,444
Medical Department	4,407
Paupers and Lunatics	1,200
Education	2,472
Miscellaneous	1,630
Post Office	2,641
Lighthouse Department	471
Savings Bank	387
Public Works Department	635
Public Works Recurrent	2,905
Colonial Development and Welfare	10,242
Extraordinary Expenditure	6,251

Direct taxation is light as there is no income tax, but a considerable amount of new taxation is being introduced. Stamp Duty was first imposed in 1948.

The principal sources of revenue are the customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported. Stamp sales were high in 1948.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British preferential tariff was introduced for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows :

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>
General Tariff	15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>

The financial position of the Dependency continues sound. This is partly due to the continuing sale of stamps but also to the buoyant customs receipts and to the increasing volume and value of salt exports. Prospects for 1949 are especially good as regards stamp sales, but the financial position of the Dependency is, even apart from this, far more healthy than for many years due to the increasing amount of employment and the increased value of exports, both visible and invisible in the form of earnings of men employed outside the Dependency, who send remittances to their families.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

At 31st December, 1948, there were 1,296 accounts in operation in the Government Savings Bank with £54,179 16s. 8d. to the credit of depositors. Deposits and withdrawals were £21,555 and £21,279 respectively. Interest paid to depositors was £1,237 5s. 0d. The book value of investments at 31st December was £53,244 3s. 0d. The increase of Savings Bank business is indicated by the following comparison: amount due to depositors 31st December, 1938, was £12,072 4s. 5d. while at 31st December, 1948, it was £54,179 16s. 8d.

Jamaica currency notes and British silver of all denominations are in circulation.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last six years was as follows :

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Imports .	£70,163	£58,272	£93,731	£60,864	£72,244	£82,756
Exports .	£12,646	£14,367	£21,293	£31,891	£55,501	£62,415

IMPORTS

The following table shows the value and origin of imports in the last six years :

	United Kingdom	Other parts of the British Empire	Foreign countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1943 . . .	13,113	44,209	12,841	70,163
1944 . . .	740	40,527	17,005	58,272
1945 . . .	330	78,440	14,961	93,731
1946 . . .	509	50,965	9,390	60,864
1947 . . .	1,116	54,882	16,246	72,244
1948 . . .	622	52,831	29,303	82,756

In 1948 65 per cent. of imports were from the British Empire and 35 per cent. from foreign countries.

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year 1948 showing the percentage supplied by the British Empire and by foreign countries :

	1948	British Empire	Foreign countries
	£	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco .	52,922	68	32
Raw materials . . .	11,369	41	59
Manufactured articles . .	15,310	68	32
Unclassified	3,155	67	33
TOTAL	£82,756		

EXPORTS

During 1948 the declared value of the exports of the Dependency was £62,415. This includes the value of re-exports which was negligible, consisting only of a small amount of ships' stores.

The following table shows the direction of the domestic exports in the last six years :

	United Kingdom	Other parts of the British Empire	Foreign countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1943 . . .	—	8,743	3,903	12,646
1944 . . .	—	10,500	3,867	14,367
1945 . . .	—	17,607	3,686	21,293
1946 . . .	5	26,704	5,187	31,896
1947 . . .	—	23,627	31,874	55,501
1948 . . .	—	25,448	36,967	62,415

Of exports in 1948 40·8 per cent. were sent to the Empire and 59·2 per cent. to foreign countries.

To the value of visible exports may be added remittances received from men working in the Bahamas and at Curacao for the support of

their families which totalled £12,987 for the year, giving a total export figure of £75,402. This figure, when compared with the total value of imports for the same period of £82,756, reveals a small adverse trade balance of £7,354, a far more favourable picture than for many years.

Chapter 6: Production

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The industry is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. The output, which over the past 25 years has averaged about 43,000 tons annually, is the product of salinas belonging to private proprietors. The salt is shipped to Canada and the United States of America, and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. Large exports are made to Japan for human consumption and for industrial purposes. It is also shipped to Jamaica. Efforts are being made to extend the markets. Turks Islands salt was famous for its purity and it had an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. The industry has declined of recent years due to the splitting up of salinas into small holdings, loss of markets during the war, a decline in purity of the salt produced, and lack of capital for the re-design of salinas and for the improvement of loading facilities and lighters. As one result of an investigation made in 1945, there has been a steady improvement in the quality of salt produced in the larger salinas.

Co-operation between lighter owners has gone some way to speed up loading cargoes into vessels. The complete rehabilitation of the industry and the possibility of bringing it under public ownership was being actively explored during 1948. Three grades of salt are exported: coarse, the natural product of the salina; fishery, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish; and industrial, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk: the industrial is bagged.

Thirty-eight thousand tons of salt were raked in 1948. The price of salt improved slightly during the year. At the close of the year about 33,000 tons of producers' stocks were in hand.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1948:

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Quantity (tons)</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Jamaica	5,924	12,176
Canada	3,039	3,174
Newfoundland	11,909	12,384
United States	3,130	3,192
Japan	46,683	26,847
TOTAL	70,685	£57,773

The average price received per ton for the salt rose from 14s. in 1947 to about 16s. 4d.

There were no large exports of sponge during the year, but the improved conditions of the banks, which were depleted by disease in the early part of the war, encourages the belief that this industry can be revived within a few years.

Agriculture is mainly confined to the Caicos Islands, where the people can, in a good year, produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves and sell a surplus at the main settlements. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown and the people have to rely mainly on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imported food. Again this year, owing to the severe droughts, the crops were below average.

In years past the exports of sisal and cotton were of considerable value to the Dependency. The fall in prices and failure to produce the first quality resulted in the closing down of the plantations. An attempt is being made to revive sisal growing as a peasant industry, and a few trial shipments of hand cleaned sisal have been made to New York and Jamaica. The scattered nature of the sisal farms, poor transportation and lack of fresh water for cleaning the fibre are all serious difficulties. There are, however, considerable hopes that output can be increased and quality improved during 1949.

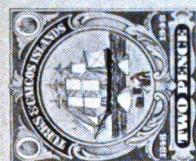
The export of crawfish to the United States of America was resumed late in the year. Careful control is being exercised to avoid depletion of the banks. The industry is capable of considerable expansion.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last six years :

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Salt						
Tons	7,873	8,896	11,892	19,541	70,340	70,685
value	£8,535	£10,499	£14,370	£25,737	£49,869	£57,773
Sponge						
lb.	—	770	—	—	300	—
value	—	£250	—	—	£10	—
Conchs						
No.	3,880,370	3,518,090	3,169,300	3,353,850	3,631,750	3,149,322
value	£3,880	£3,518	£3,170	£3,354	£3,632	£3,149
Sisal						
lb.	17,920	—	—	—	—	23,435
value	£208	—	—	—	—	£293
Sisal Rope						
lb.	—	—	89,957	54,500	—	—
value	—	—	£3,610	£2,800	—	—
Crawfish						
No.	—	—	—	—	80,000	48,000
value	—	—	—	—	£2,000	£1,200

Note : 30 bushels of coarse salt or 28 bushels of fishery grade salt equal 1 ton.

ISSUE OF STAMPS
COMMEMORATING A
CENTURY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT SINCE
THE SEPARATION OF
THE TURKS & CAICOS
ISLANDS FROM THE
BAHAMAS COLONY





With acknowledgments to The Hon. F. B. Harriott

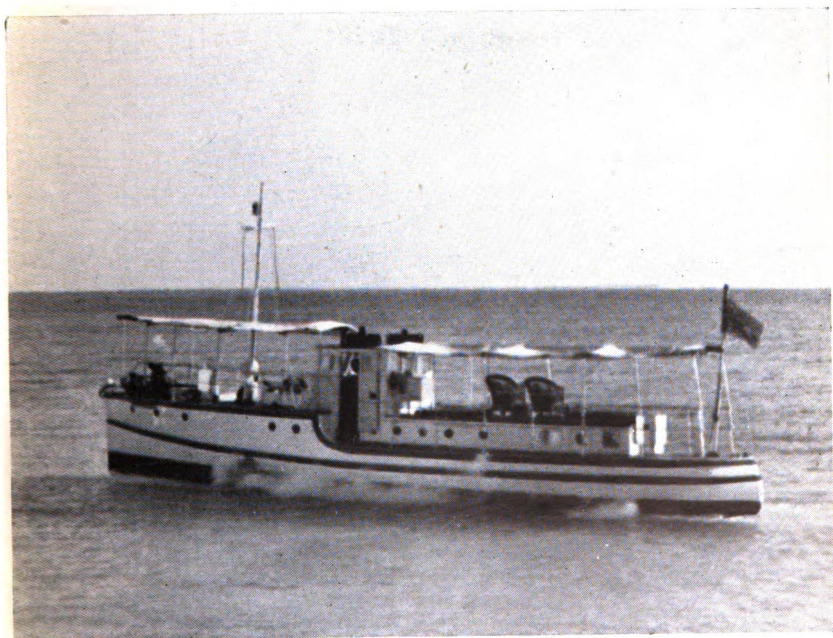
A CORNER OF SALT CAY SHOWING THE TOWN SALINA



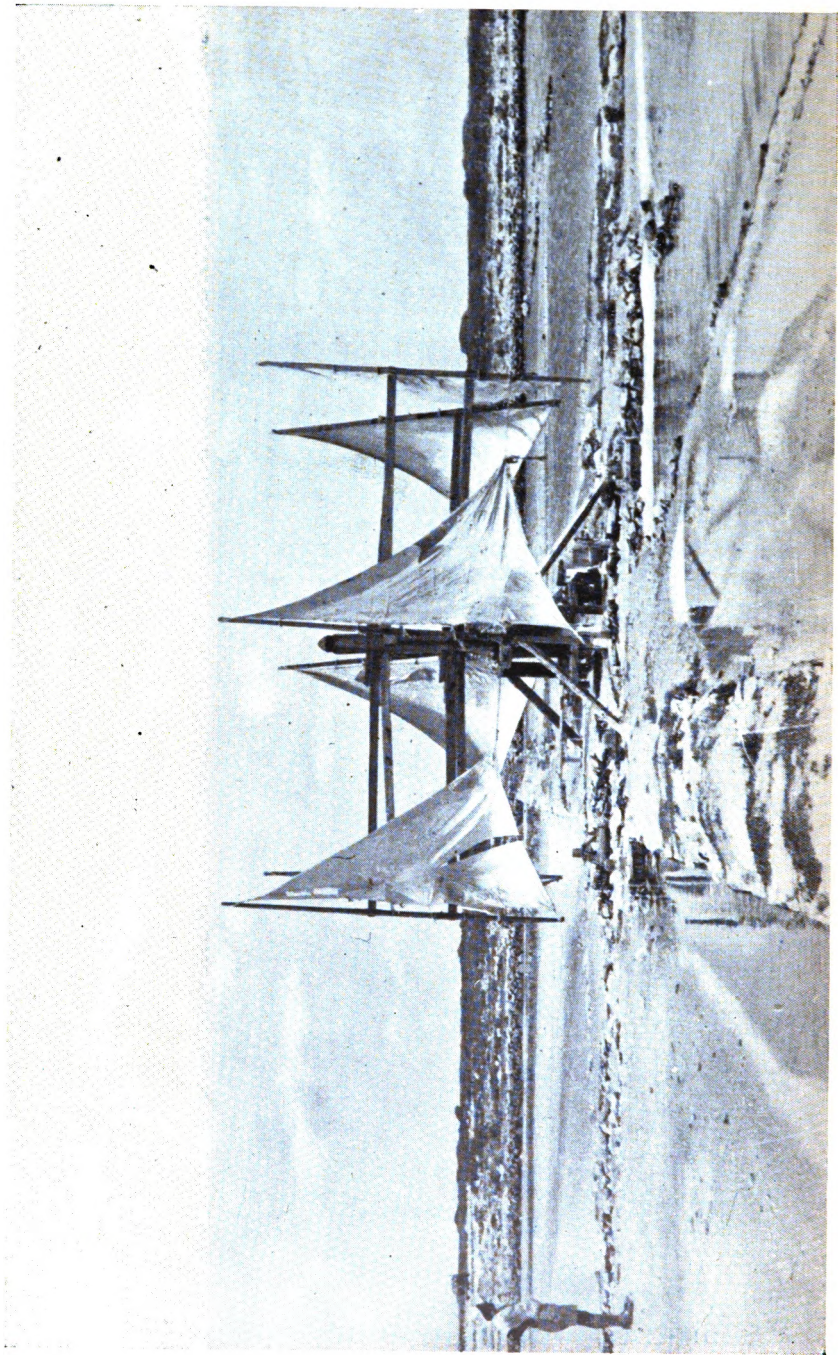
COCKBURN HARBOUR, MAIN SALT-PRODUCING ISLAND



LOADING SALT



THE NEW GOVERNMENT LAUNCH: *President Forth*
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MERRY-GO-ROUND

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, for children between the ages of seven and 14 years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying Caicos Islands, where it is not possible to maintain schools to meet the requirements of some of the small isolated communities.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government. There are 11 elementary schools.

In 1948 the number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 894, and the average attendance was 612. There were also two private elementary schools with a total of 19 pupils. While the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads.

Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed can be regarded as being really competent. Improvement in the standard of school buildings, equipment, sanitation, playing grounds, etc., is badly needed and a grant for these purposes is envisaged in the Development Plan (see pages 4-5). Improvements in teachers' salaries and the provision of teacher-training courses are planned.

During the year teachers' salaries were increased by a larger "carrying on allowance" and the lowest salaries revised. There was a modest improvement in the supply of books and equipment. A great deal remains to be done before the conditions can be regarded as even reasonably satisfactory.

An excellent short teachers' refresher course was held in June under a Senior Inspector of Schools from Jamaica.

There is a Senior Government School at Grand Turk. In 1948 there were 28 pupils on the roll, and the average attendance was 26. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

Over 90 per cent. of the Dependency's population is literate, and there is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a good assortment of current papers and magazines. Generous assistance has been given by the British Council. Sub-libraries were opened at six other centres.

HEALTH

The principal cause of death in this Dependency is old age. Of 39 deaths in Grand Turk during the year 46 per cent. were due to senile degenerative changes mainly of the cardio-vascular system. Malnutrition and avitaminosis particularly of the B complex group vitamins is common among the population. The mortality, however, from these is lower due to the use of food yeast.

During the drought season a marked increase of the number of flies coupled with poor sanitation in certain of the poorer districts caused for a period an infective type of diarrhoea, particularly among children, characterised by a "green stool." Clinically this resembles the sonne type of dysentery. The eye condition of pterygium is to be found in the salt making districts of these Islands caused by the excessive glare from the roads and salt heaps. Plans are under consideration for the supply of dark glasses to salt workers at a low price.

Infectious Diseases

There were some cases of suspected typhoid fever with two recorded deaths during the year. A possible widespread outbreak was checked by the prompt inoculation against this disease with T.A.B. vaccine. A total of 478 persons (adults and children) were inoculated in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour. The predisposing factors were a severe drought necessitating the use of possibly contaminated drinking water, the excessive number of flies, and the poor state of some latrines. Malaria is almost non-existent except in the Caicos Islands.

Prevention and Treatment

The introduction and liberal distribution of food yeast throughout the Dependency has greatly aided the fight against vitamin deficiency of the B complex group of vitamins. The high protein value of this food has greatly reduced malnutrition, particularly among children. Cod liver oil is also freely supplied not only to children but also to expectant mothers who are instructed in the value of its use. Welfare clinics are helping in this work.

Nursing Care

There has been some improvement with the return to the Island of two local Jamaica-trained nurses who also took a course in public health. It is planned that, when a sufficient number are available and when clinics are built, a Public Health Nurse will be sent to work in each of the islands.

Hospitals

The only hospital in the Dependency is the Manning Hospital situated at Grand Turk. This is a 15-bed hospital of which only four beds are reserved for urgent medical and surgical cases, the remaining beds are used for paupers. There is also an operating theatre attached

to the hospital. Despite disadvantages, excellent work has been done by the Medical Staff attached to this hospital. Credit must be ascribed to the healthy climate, care and skill of the medical and nursing staff. Plans have been prepared for the erection of a cottage hospital at Grand Turk to which will be attached a dental officer (Government) along with the Medical Officer. It is also the intention of the Government to build a cottage hospital at Cockburn Harbour. In the lower settlements of the Caicos Islands there is a welfare clinic and small maternity ward with a trained midwife in attendance.

Drainage Works

There are no swamps in the larger islands and no drainage is necessary.

Water Supplies

The water supply of the islands is provided by tanks. These are regularly inspected and kept in a clean condition. This source of supply becomes inadequate during the long dry season and use is then made of one or two deep wells to be found in the island. There are also some shallow wells which provide a water supply for cattle. The catchments for the Public Tanks are to be improved and increased in area.

Sanitation

The main type of latrine used throughout the islands is the pit latrine. There is no sewage system. The pit latrines are in good condition and regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. Unfortunately there has of necessity to be stables for animals in the town, and these act as breeding places for flies. Good results have been obtained by spraying stables and latrines with D.D.T.

HOUSING

According to the 1943 census there were 1,365 dwelling-houses in these islands; 889 were built of wood, 446 of stone, and 30 were of other construction. During the hurricane of 1945 the number of dwelling-houses destroyed was 536 and the number damaged was 754. Rehabilitation is now completed; 233 houses have been rebuilt and 369 damaged houses repaired. Materials have been supplied to assist owners to repair their own houses in an additional 104 cases. The total cost was £27,757.

Nearly all the wage-earning population live in small houses of two or three rooms with small outhouses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Sanitary Inspector and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed. The Sanitary Inspector was appointed late in 1946.

There is no building law and the people are free to build as they please. A complete revision of the out-of-date public health legislation and the introduction of building regulations is under consideration.

There is no property tax in this Dependency but the necessary legislation to impose one is in draft. There are no building societies.

There are no barracks, compounds or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings, although some are in very poor condition. A small grant will be asked for under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the construction of experimental working-class cottages. The object is to produce model cottages which are inexpensive, hurricane resistant and in line with modern health requirements.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There has so far been little social welfare activity. This has been due to the smallness of the population of these Islands, the scattered nature of the settlements and the depressed economic conditions which have prevailed for a number of years. Lack of employment and the almost complete absence of any of the amenities of larger communities, such as sport, cinemas, dances and the like, has caused many of the younger people to leave the Islands in search of work and more congenial surroundings. An improvement in the economic life of the Dependency provides the only real solution. The rehabilitation of the salt industry and the encouragement and revival of several minor industries is being actively pursued, but these are long-term projects. A considerable improvement should, however, be effected during 1949 as the British Council has donated an excellent 16 millimetre cinema projector. It is hoped to secure a second projector during 1949, and to effect improvements to sports grounds. It is proposed to utilise the village schools in the out-lying settlements as simple community centres. As a start six sub-libraries have been set up, affiliated to the Victoria Library at Grand Turk. As soon as funds permit, it is hoped to have selected persons trained in social welfare work.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment or sickness, but relief is granted in necessitous cases and cost about £1,200 in 1948.

There are seven friendly societies (including Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans and Shepherds) which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness and death.

The after-care of prisoners was formerly left to private charity and little was done to combat juvenile delinquency. As a result of the recommendations of the Prison Board and of the ministers of the three principal religious denominations, some improvement was effected in 1948.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year. These were :

No. 1. The General Revenue Appropriation (1947-48) Ordinance, 1947.

- No. 2. The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 3. The Infanticide Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 4. Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 5. Fractions of a Penny (Elimination) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 6. The Stamp Duty Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 7. Magistrates' Code of Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 8. Supplementary Appropriation (1945-46) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 9. Tonnage Tax Ordinance, 1948.
- No. 10. Summary Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 11. Supplementary Appropriation (1944-45) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948.
- No. 12. Witnesses Expenses Ordinance, 1947.
- No. 13. Offences against the Person (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948.
- No. 14. General Revenue Appropriation (1948-49) Ordinance, 1948.
- No. 15. Larceny Ordinance, 1948.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance is being drafted and will be enacted early in 1949. During 1948, cases of injury received whilst shipping His Majesty's Government's salt were treated in the same manner as if legislation were already in force.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the common law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend to the Dependency legislation passed by it.

The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. By virtue of the Turks and Caicos Islands Divorce Law, 1943, jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes has also been conferred on the Supreme Court.

The operation of the jury system, as is frequently the case in small communities where the standard of education is low, is open at times to legitimate criticism.

There are three Magistrates' Courts, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force consists of three non-commissioned officers and seven police constables. The sergeant is seconded from the Jamaica Constabulary Force. In addition, special constables are continuously employed at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. In the Caicos Islands there is a district constable at each of the eight

principal settlements. The training of locally recruited constables in Jamaica has been re-started.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, into which prisoners sentenced to terms of less than 12 months' imprisonment are received. Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 12 months and more are sent to the General Penitentiary, Jamaica. There is a lock-up at Cockburn Harbour, where prisoners from the Caicos Islands may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 14 days. A considerable improvement in prison conditions is planned and will be implemented in 1949.

Juvenile delinquents are also received at the Central Prison, but occupy a separate building from that of the adult prisoners. Most of the time of the juvenile delinquents is spent outside the prison in the pursuit of education, in recreation and in learning trades. They are under the supervision of the Prison Board. The Magistrate, as Chairman of the Board, exercises close personal supervision; even so, much remains to be done before the care of juvenile delinquents can be considered satisfactory.

The central prison is a large, well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation and is kept in good order and sanitary condition. There is complete separation between male and female inmates. There are 10 cells for males and four for females, and no associated wards. Each prisoner has 70 square feet of area and over 1,000 cubic feet of space during sleeping hours. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are employed in the breaking of stones and work of a general nature on Government property. The prisoners are well fed and are allowed 11 hours for sleep. The Medical Officer visits the prison regularly, and the ministers of the various religious bodies also regularly hold divine services there.

The Magistrate at Grand Turk acts as Inspector of the prison. There are a gaoler, three warders, a matron and a cook. The matron supervises the female prisoners and the juvenile delinquents. There is a Prison Board which meets once a month to inspect and supervise the prison.

The crime statistics for 1948 were :

Number of crimes reported or known to Police	365
Number of crimes brought before Magistrate	268
Number of cases dropped	95
Number of persons proceeded against (male)	260
(female).	162
Number of persons apprehended	106
Number of persons summoned	238
Number discharged	102
Number summarily convicted.	322
Number imprisoned	31
Number whipped	4
Number fined	229
Number bound over	58

Convictions were as follows :

Offences against the person	51
Praedial larceny	2
Malicious injury to property	9
Other offences against property	29
Miscellaneous minor offences	219
Other crimes	24
Offences against Revenue, etc.	4

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

There are no public utilities in the normally accepted sense. Owing to the nature of the Islands, almost all water used for drinking and washing is rainwater stored in private and public tanks. There are 12 public tanks with a total capacity of 507,000 gallons situated as follows :

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	5	355,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	2	72,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	4,000
TOTAL	12	507,000

Drinking water is sold at 1d. for 4 gallons and frequently has to be rationed during dry periods. There are also a number of Government wells. A programme of extending and repairing catchment areas and of increasing water storage is being pursued as fast as funds permit. A 60,000 gallon tank has been purchased at Cockburn Harbour and is being reconditioned. The catchment areas in all the Islands were repaired and the area of the catchment for the North Tanks at Grand Turk was increased during the year.

The small Public Works Department comprises a Building Supervisor paid under a Development grant and a Mechanical Superintendent. Almost all work is done by contract and a surprising amount of useful work is done inexpensively by this small organisation which is all the Dependency can afford. The work includes the normal care and maintenance of public buildings, roads, bridges, wharves, trucks, and also the maintenance of telephones, radio-telephone, electric charging plants and a host of other minor jobs. The Dependency's rapid advance from the immemorial regime of the sail lighter and the mule cart presents many problems and the maintenance of an increasing flow of new equipment is not the least of them.

Chapter II: Communications

Before the war there was a regular steamship service between Grand Turk and the United States of America operated by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. Elders and Fyffes steamers also called occasionally to disembark passengers and mails from the United Kingdom and to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica. During the war direct services ceased and the only regular service for several years has been by the m.v. *Kirksons*. This vessel sails at approximately monthly intervals between Grand Turk and Jamaica and carries general cargo, mails and passengers.

There are three ports of entry, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

At the end of the year there were 107 registered vessels owned in the Dependency, totalling 1,456 tons. The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year was as follows :

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Net Tonnage</i>
Total shipping entered	229	64,806

There is constant communication between the Dependency, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Bahamas Islands by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

An air service between the Dependency and Jamaica was again attempted in 1948 and trial flights proved successful. There is also a fortnightly despatch of airmail via Haiti.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via Jamaica. The Post Office dealt with about 186,850 postal articles during the year.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telephone system provides, in co-operation with Cable and Wireless Ltd., service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour.

Before the hurricane of 1945 there was a small Government-operated telephone service at Grand Turk ; there were 12 connections to Government quarters, offices, hospital, etc., and 16 private connections. The telephone system was destroyed in the hurricane but has now been reconstructed and is to be further extended.

There are no overland telegraphs, their place being taken by radio-telephone.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in good condition during the year. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bush paths.

There are no railways, tramways or omnibuses.

PART III

Chapter I : Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and $72^{\circ} 50'$ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side, and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively.

In his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938), Dr. H. H. Brown describes the geological structure of the Caicos Bank as precisely similar to that of the Bahamas. "A flat-topped rock rises steeply from the ocean bed consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin; this rock mass comprises the whole Caicos Banks and Cays and is similar to other rock masses of the Bahama group."

The northern and eastern sides of the Bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coast line of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef. Dr. Brown writes : "This reef of living coral is superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers on which the seas break heavily. It is therefore very dangerous to navigate." On the islands "the limestone is weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." On the bank coast of these islands there is found "a mangrove and seawater swamp which is intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of

white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate and had resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock." Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. The first beginning from the north consists of white mud or marl under some three or four feet of water. The second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank." "The ground had enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface, which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds; it can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass and burrowing animals (*Annelida Mollusca* and *Crustacea*). Shells of mollusca are abundant in the surface."

The last zone under shallow water consists of clean shifting biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide.

At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found "the barrier reef from the edge of which soundings drop down with spectacular suddenness."

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extend for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The climate may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° minimum to 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December is generally pleasant. At Grand Turk the average rainfall for the last five years has been 29.51 inches. The rainfall for 1948 was 20.12 and the maximum and minimum temperature was 92° and 64° with a mean maximum and minimum of 88° and 70.7°.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction owing to the velocity of the wind which exceeded 150 miles an hour, but as the wind came from the east there was no damage due to heavy seas.

Chapter 2: History

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembles a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt-raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt-raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruptions by Spanish attacks. Several attempts to obtain possession of

the islands were also made by the French. Then, in the year 1766, an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. This system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are subject to hurricanes. Severe hurricanes occurred in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926, 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage done by the hurricane of 1945 and even this sum was inadequate to deal with more than part of the damage. Generous help was received from the British and Jamaica Governments and from subscribers in Jamaica, Bermuda and Nassau.

A number of endeavours have been made by means of subsidies to secure a regular steamer service with Jamaica but they have been short-lived, the first contract being with the Atlas Company in 1873. Since 1940 it has proved impossible to maintain any regular steamer service.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company which later became known as the Direct West India Cable Company Ltd. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941 when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable & Wireless Ltd., who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Ltd., are still operated by Government. It is believed that this was the first radio-telephone service to be operated by a British Dependency. Cable & Wireless Ltd. also established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941. A direct radio-telephone service between Grand Turk and Jamaica was opened by Cable & Wireless Ltd. on 1st December, 1947.

During the second world war an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The last garrison had been withdrawn over 80 years before when a detachment of the 1st West India Regiment under the command of Ensign Nolan was withdrawn to Nassau. A temporary air base was established by the United States Army Air Force on South Caicos Island in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The base and strip were handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947. A small airstrip for light aircraft was also constructed at Grand Turk during 1947.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to this Dependency by one of His Majesty's Ministers, though the Dependency had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) having visited Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban*, in which he was then serving as a lieutenant.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is also President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. C. E. Wool-Lewis assumed the duties of Commissioner in October, 1946.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and two official and three unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are a number of Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters. There is also a Salt Industry Board appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

Certain laws of Jamaica are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides.

Other settlements are Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos where there is a District Commissioner, and Salt Cay on the island of that name, where there is a Government Officer. There are 10 settlements in the Caicos Islands all of which are inhabited solely by people of African origin, and at each of which there is a District Constable.

During the year the Commissioner visited Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay on a number of occasions. The difficulties of administering the scattered settlements of the Dependency were lessened by the purchase of a motor-launch for which a grant was provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. During 1947 and 1948 the launch was out of commission awaiting repairs. But a new launch has been purchased and is expected to arrive in the Dependency early in 1949.

District Boards have been established in four of the larger Caicos settlements to advise on public health, water supplies, communications and other matters of local interest. These Boards have already shown themselves to be of value and to provide a useful link between the people of remoter parts of the Dependency and Government.

The Commissioner visited Jamaica three times during the year in connection with plans for development and welfare, the re-organisation of the salt industry, and general administrative matters, and was in London for some months in connection with the Development and Salt Industry Plans.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

No newspapers or periodicals are now published in the Dependency. The *Official Gazette* is published weekly.

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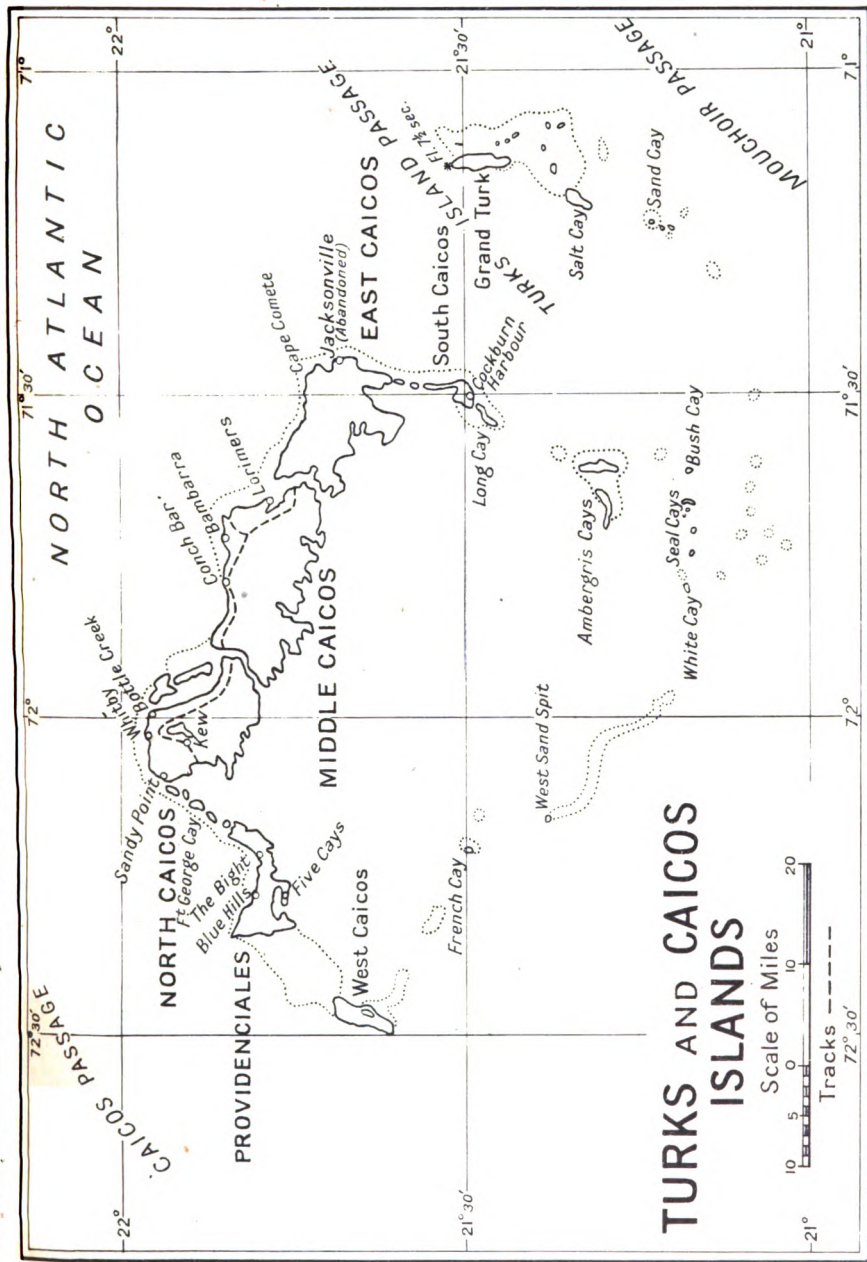
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PART I

Review of 1949 and 1950

THE years under review were perhaps the most momentous in the history of this Dependency. The decisions made and the plans set in motion during these years will affect the lives of the inhabitants of these barren and isolated islands to an extent outweighed only by the abolition of slavery more than a century ago. A great effort has been made to start to develop the slender economic resources of the Dependency, to control the rise in the cost of living and to improve the social services of the community. The motive power behind these plans has been the generous assistance granted under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, the unfailing help of the Government of Jamaica and the promise of the Colonial Development Corporation to assist in the modernisation of the salt industry.

The salt industry has always been the economic mainstay of these islands, and the dangers of a one-crop economy have been exemplified repeatedly. First place in planning has, therefore, been given to this industry. The large-scale plans mentioned in the 1948 Report were dropped and new ones had to be made. The scheme as it finally emerged, and it is necessary to take the story beyond the end of 1950, was virtually "nationalisation without tears." On 28th November, 1950, almost 90 per cent of the independent producers and owners signed a voluntary agreement with the Commissioner of the Dependency agreeing to a total valuation of £100,000 as compensation for the entire assets of the salt industry, including the Government assets which were valued at £6,000, and to accept approximately one-third of the compensation in cash and the remaining two-thirds in redeemable cumulative preference shares in a limited liability company. In this company the Government of the Dependency will own all the ordinary shares and at all times hold an overall majority of shares and have a majority on the board of directors. The Colonial Development Corporation have agreed to lend £60,000 secured as a debenture repayable over twenty-five years. In thirty years time the people of the Dependency will, given prudent management, own their major industry completely. On 26th February, 1951, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited was incorporated. On 28th February, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance, 1950, was passed and received the Governor's assent on 5th March, 1951. The final stage was the vesting in the new company of all the formerly privately owned assets of the salt industry on 9th April, 1951. Naturally enough such great changes could not be brought about without some upheaval, but the quietness of the change over was perhaps the best evidence that the public accepted these changes as essential to the common good.

The various plans to foster minor industries bore fruit during 1950.

The traditional trade in dried conchs (large shell fish) to Haiti continued, and there were increased exports of frozen processed crawfish tails, conchs and scale fish to Miami. Sisal increased sharply in value during 1950, and more was exported. Lastly the remittances of labourers employed at Curaçao and in the Bahamas were greatly increased because the major employers accepted the principle of compulsory allotments for dependants.

Endeavours to control the cost of living have taken a somewhat unusual but interesting form. Wartime difficulties in feeding the islanders were met by a subsidy from United Kingdom funds and a small Food Control Department was set up to arrange the bulk purchase of essential foodstuffs, kerosene, petrol, etcetra, and to distribute these imports to traders. Control of retail margins of profit was introduced at the same time. Worsening supply conditions eventually made the Food Control Department almost the sole importer of foodstuffs and consumer goods. In 1947 and 1948 an effort was made to withdraw from all trading activities with the exception of the import and distribution of essential foodstuffs, which were subsidised, and fuel. The result was the almost complete disappearance of consumer goods of every sort from the shops. It had not been foreseen that, because of worsening economic conditions, small traders would not have sufficient capital to start business. The withdrawal of the United Kingdom food subsidy at the end of the financial year 1948-49 was a further complication, as the improving, but still difficult, economic circumstances of the Dependency would not permit of the withdrawal of subsidies on essential foodstuffs, and the subsidies in a reduced form had to be met from local funds.

The necessary funds have been raised in two ways : certain customs duties have been increased steeply, and the Food Control Department has again started to import a wide range of goods for distribution to traders and it has made profits on non-essential items. These methods have been successful and it has proved possible to associate traders increasingly with the work of the Department.

The two main social service development plans are now being implemented. The Public Health Plan will provide for a small well equipped hospital at Grand Turk, a public health centre with a small emergency ward at Cockburn Harbour, and a clinic at Salt Cay. Work on the Grand Turk hospital was well advanced by the end of the year 1950. The significance of a modern hospital in a community hitherto served only by a small poorly equipped poor house with a few hospital beds, is hard to realise. The whole educational set up of the Dependency is being modernised, but even the generous help under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act will be quite inadequate to rebuild and equip the twelve schools, provide teachers' cottages and improve the standard of teaching and the pay of the teachers. However, a start has been made, teacher training courses held, teachers' salaries improved and, though only a start has been made and funds are inadequate, there is great hope for the future.

A new stamp issue of thirteen denominations was introduced in

1950, replacing the 1938 issue. The issue ranges from $\frac{1}{2}d.$ to 10s., and for the first time for many years the $\frac{1}{4}d.$ stamp is omitted. The issue was well received by collectors.

The years under review will also always be remembered in these islands for the continuance of the drought which began in 1946. The rainfall in 1950 was only 17 inches. Because of the light winter rains in 1949, and despite the severest rationing, supplies became exhausted and water had to be imported by water barge and in drums. Considerable relief was afforded in June, 1950, when, due to the good offices of the Admiral Commanding United States Forces at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a water barge pumped over 100,000 gallons into the town tanks at Grand Turk. Water was also shipped in drums from Jamaica and Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. Despite an emergency programme of building tanks and extending rain water catchments, the abnormally light winter rains in 1950 gave no promise of any relief in 1951, but on the contrary of even greater hardship. It was again necessary to import water in 1951, but after a few days the drought broke, relieving all anxiety. Shortly after, a distilling plant was received from New York, which will prove an invaluable stand-by in future years.

PART II

Chapter 1 : Population

THE last census was taken in 1943 when the population of the Dependency was 6,138.

Persons of African descent	. . .	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	. . .	1,935
Persons of European descent	. . .	122

The number of females exceeded the number of males by 19.9 per cent at the time of the census. The population is now estimated at 6,500.

The population of the principal islands is estimated to be :

Grand Turk	. . . . .	1,800
Salt Cay	. . . . .	400
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	. . . . .	800
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	. . . . .	1,600

The births and deaths registered during the last eight years were as follows :

	<i>Number of Births</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1,000</i>
1943	244	103	39.7	16.8
1944	209	99	34	16.1
1945	249	234	38.9	36.5
1946	204	93	31.3	14.3
1947	220	82	36.7	13.4
1948	195	88	30	13.5
1949	227	73	34.9	11.2
1950	240	80	36.9	12.3

The rates are based on the census of 1943.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1949 was 26, equal to a death-rate of 114.3 per 1,000 births, and in 1950 was 24, equal to a death-rate of 100 per 1,000 births ; the corresponding figures in 1948 were 25 and 128.2 per 1,000. Twenty-four marriages were registered in 1949, and 57 in 1950.

The emigration and immigration figures were :

	1950	1949
Entered	208	243
Departed	263	301

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

THE demand for labour is principally confined to the salt industry and has not in the past exceeded an average of 200 men. The demand is to some extent seasonal, but the large exports in 1949 and stockpiling in 1950 have tended to make work in the industry almost continuous. One of the principal reasons for the proposal to rehabilitate this industry and bring it under unified control is the need to provide more regular and better-paid employment. The difficulty in raising wages to allow for the great increase in the cost of living lies in the continuing low world price of salt. The actual shipping of salt requires considerable additional labour which is found by the temporary employment of fishermen, artisans, tailors and the like. Rates paid for shipping are good and the supply of this casual labour exceeds the demand. Some women are employed, when salt is shipped, to fill the small half-bushel bags which are used for loading lighters. The employment of women for this work is, however, less common than formerly. Modernisation of shipping methods, which is long overdue, will start in 1951.

There was an increased amount of employment on steamers, and some labour is required by the salt industry at Inagua and in the lumber industry at Abaco, both in the Bahamas.

Unemployment has been severe for many years, and there is a tendency for the best men to leave the Dependency whenever a chance of employment elsewhere occurs. The improvement in employment in 1947 and 1948 continued during 1949 but fell away to some extent owing to the poor salt sales in 1950.

Employers are not responsible for feeding or housing their employees. There is a minimum wages law and wages are well above the legal minimum, but those, especially for unskilled labour, are still low in relation to the price of food, clothing, etc. all of which has to be imported. The price of salt which remains stubbornly low, and which has to be sold on a highly competitive world market, is the controlling factor. To make salt, transport it to the beaches, lighter it out to ships and deliver it in the hold, as well as maintain equipment and salinas and pay labour adequately, all for 20 shillings a ton, which is the average price for coarse salt which forms the bulk of the salt exported, is not the easiest of tasks and leaves scant room for profit making.

The average wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 5s. 6d. to 6s. for a day of eight hours and from 12s. to 18s.

a day when shipping it. Carpenters, masons and blacksmiths earn from 12s. to 15s. for a day of eight hours. Truck drivers and mechanics earn 10s. to 15s. a day. In domestic service the wages vary from 7s. 6d. to 20s. a week for female servants, usually with rations. Employment of males as butlers, etc., is now rare.

The cost of living rose greatly during the second half of 1950. Disturbed world conditions, the effects of the Korean war, rising freight rates and growing shortages have all combined to hit hard a small population which must import almost every item of food and every item of clothing, equipment, building materials, fuel, etc. The rise, despite price control and an internal subsidy on essential food-stuffs, is estimated at about 30 per cent since June, 1950.

During 1950 the Legislature adopted the Jamaica Workmen's Compensation Law for the Dependency.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years :

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	
	£	£	
1946-47 .	61,701	69,945	(Actual)
1947-48 .	55,225	66,773	(Actual)
1948-49 .	71,132	51,810	} (Awaiting audit)
1949-50 .	101,477*	107,040*	
1950-51 .	78,180	87,281	(Revised estimate)

* These totals include £11,500 for Investments and £28,000 for Imperial Food Subsidies.

There is no public debt, but the operations of the Food Control Department are financed by an interest bearing advance made by the Jamaica Treasury.

The main items of revenue for the financial years 1949-50 and 1950-51 were estimated as follows :

	1949-50 (<i>Revised Estimate</i>)	1950-51 (<i>Revised Estimate</i>)
	£	£
Customs Duties	16,300	18,180
Royalty	7,000	2,000
Port Dues	700	625
Internal Revenue	470	420

	1949-50 (Revised Estimate)	1950-51 (Revised Estimate)
	£	£
Fees of Court and Office	223	218
Departmental Revenue	139	216
Reimbursements	1,248	1,533
Post Office	20,225	24,255
Interest	500	500
Miscellaneous	2,060	9,055
Colonial Development and Welfare	7,541	21,177
Investments	11,500	—
Imperial Food Subsidy	28,000	—

The main items of expenditure for the financial years 1949-50 and 1950-51 were estimated as follows :

	£	£
Pensions	973	1,486
Commissioner's Department	5,489	6,727
Treasury and Customs	3,843	4,151
Judicial Department	1,315	1,937
Police Department	2,901	2,591
Prisons	1,793	1,384
Medical Department	5,379	6,315
Paupers and Lunatics	1,200	1,220
Education	2,614	3,819
Miscellaneous	3,195	7,266
Post Office	3,640	3,190
Lighthouses	1,616	1,048
Savings Bank	392	392
Public Works Department	536	1,822
Public Works Recurrent	3,900	4,730
Public Works Extraordinary	4,845	4,920
Industries	1,300	6,010
Grant to Hurricane Reserve Fund	500	—
Colonial Development and Welfare	8,133	20,723
Land and Property Purchases	130	800
Repayment of Loan re Sisal Farm	800	800
Cost-of-Living Allowances	—	1,600
Food Control Department	5,000	4,250
Investments	11,500	—
Unallocated Stores	1,000	100
Imperial Food Subsidy	28,000	—

Direct taxation is light as there is no income tax, but a considerable amount of new taxation is being introduced. Stamp duty was first imposed in 1948.

The principal sources of revenue are the customs import duties and

the royalty on salt exported. Sales of postage stamps, which are another important source of revenue, were high in 1949 and 1950.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British preferential tariff was introduced for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty as follows :

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
General Tariff	15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .

The financial position of the Dependency gave no cause for anxiety during 1949, because the price of salt rose and exports continued at a high level. Unfortunately a series of strikes affecting steamers loading salt earned the ports of the Dependency a most unenviable reputation, and this, combined with a recession in the salt trade in 1950, brought about a heavy fall in salt sales and consequently a severe shortfall in revenue, as lack of salt sales involved heavy expenditure on public works to relieve unemployment. By the close of 1950 the position had deteriorated badly, but the various measures taken for the recovery of the salt industry, to foster the minor industries and to increase the family remittances of men working overseas, gave good reason to expect an improvement in the financial position during 1951.

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

Jamaica currency notes and British silver of all denominations are in circulation.

At 31st December, 1950, there were 1,515 accounts in operation in the Government Savings Bank with £65,741 to the credit of depositors. Deposits and withdrawals were £32,136 and £27,713 respectively. Interest paid to depositors was £1,405. The market value of investments at 31st December was £65,971. The increase of Savings Bank business is indicated by the following comparison : the amount due to depositors at 31st December, 1938, was £12,072 and at 31st December, 1950, it was £65,741.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last six years was as follows :

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	93,731	60,864	72,244	82,756	102,524	101,630
Exports	21,293	31,891	55,501	62,415	70,772	35,296

IMPORTS

The following table shows the value and origin of imports in the last six years :

	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1945 . . .	330	78,440	14,961	93,731
1946 . . .	509	50,965	9,390	60,864
1947 . . .	1,116	54,882	16,246	72,244
1948 . . .	622	52,831	29,303	82,756
1949 . . .	36,742	50,529	15,253	102,524
1950 . . .	32,437	40,509	28,684	101,630

Eighty-five per cent of imports in 1949 and 72 per cent in 1950 were from the Commonwealth.

The classified summary of imports for the years 1949 and 1950 shows the percentage supplied by the Commonwealth and by foreign countries :

	1949	<i>Common- wealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>
	£	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco . . .	62,900	88	12
Raw materials . . .	5,460	84	16
Manufactured articles . . .	30,700	79	21
Unclassified . . .	3,464	89	11
Total . . .	102,524		
	1950		
Food, drink and tobacco . . .	£70,390	70	30
Raw Materials . . .	9,436	87	13
Manufactured articles . . .	19,472	72	28
Unclassified . . .	2,332	62	38
Total . . .	101,630		

EXPORTS

During 1949 and 1950 the declared values of exports were £70,772 and £35,296 respectively. These include the values of re-exports which were negligible and consisted only of a small amount of ships' stores.

The following table shows the destination of exports in the last six years :

	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the British Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1945 . . .	—	17,607	3,686	21,293
1946 . . .	5	26,704	5,187	31,896
1947 . . .	—	23,627	31,874	55,501
1948 . . .	—	25,448	36,967	62,415
1949 . . .	—	36,611	34,161	70,772
1950 . . .	—	19,877	15,419	35,296

Of exports in 1949 and 1950, 51·7 per cent and 56·3 per cent respectively were sent to Commonwealth countries.

To the value of visible exports may be added remittances to their families received from men working in the Bahamas and at Curaçao which totalled £17,000 in 1949 and £22,264 in 1950, giving a total export figure of £57,560 for the latter year.

Chapter 6 : Production

The principal industry is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The industry is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. The output, which over the past 25 years has averaged about 43,000 tons annually, is the product of salinas which until 9th April, 1951, belonged to private proprietors. The salt is shipped to Canada and the United States of America, and is used there for fish curing and meat-packing. Large exports are made to Japan for human consumption and for industrial purposes. It is also shipped to Jamaica. Efforts are being made to extend the markets. Turks Islands salt was famous for its purity and it had an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. The industry has declined of recent years due to the splitting up of salinas into small holdings, loss of markets during the war, a decline in purity of salt produced, and lack of capital for the re-design of salinas and for the improvement of loading facilities and lighters. As one result of an investigation made in 1945, there has been a steady improvement in the quality of salt produced in the larger salinas.

Co-operation between lighter owners has gone some way to speeding up the loading of cargoes into vessels, but the modernisation of the industry can only be carried out under unified control and by an organisation with funds available for capital improvements. The plans which were maturing in 1949 and 1950 and which culminated in the incorporation of the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited have

been described in Part I. Three grades of salt are exported : coarse, the natural product of the salina ; fishery, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish ; and industrial, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk : the industrial is bagged. Forty-seven thousand tons of salt were raked in 1949 and at the end of the year about 22,000 tons of producer's stock were in hand. Sixty thousand tons of salt were raked in 1950 and by the end of the year about 71,000 tons of producer's stock were in hand.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1949 and 1950 :

<i>Destination</i>	1949	
	<i>Quantity</i> <i>Tons</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Jamaica	4,527	9,359
Canada	20,839	26,605
United States of America	2,661	4,117
Japan	24,691	24,691
Total	52,718	£64,772

<i>Destination</i>	1950	
	<i>Quantity</i> <i>Tons</i>	<i>Value</i> £
Jamaica	5,653	11,709
Canada	725	1,027
Barbados	104	141
United States of America	3,071	3,335
Total	9,553	£16,212

The average price received per ton for salt was £1 4s. 3d. in 1949 and £1 6s. 10d. in 1950. The latter figure is deceptive as 5,653 tons were shipped to Jamaica at the favourable price of £11,709, and the remaining 3,900 tons realised only £4,500, including sales of fishery grade salt which is more expensive to prepare than coarse salt. The average price of salt of all grades, would on an average year's sales now not greatly exceed 22s. per ton. The price for coarse salt, which forms the bulk of the shipments, including loading charges to cover port dues, etc. would not exceed 20s., the invoice value being about 18s. per ton. The difficulty in meeting even the most modest demands for improvement in wages and working conditions of labour is obvious. The remedy lies not only in more efficient and economical methods of production and shipping and in increased exports, but also in producing and being able to market various grades of refined salt which command considerably higher prices.

There were no exports of sponge during 1950. The sponge beds, which became diseased during the war, were beginning to recover in

1948, but there was a further, though less severe, outbreak of disease in 1949. Certain types of sponge are again beginning to reach marketable size and there are hopes of reviving the industry.

Agriculture is mainly confined to the Caicos Islands, where the people can, in a good year, produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves for a few months in each year and sell a surplus in the salt-producing islands. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown and the people have to rely mainly on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imported food. In the years under review, owing to severe droughts, the crops throughout the Dependency were below average.

In years past the exports of sisal and cotton were of considerable value to the Dependency. The fall in prices and failure to produce the first quality resulted in the closing down of the plantations in the early nineteen-twenties. Sisal growing has been revived recently as a peasant industry and output rose from 26 tons in 1949 to 92 tons in 1950. Output should increase by at least 50 per cent in 1951. The scattered nature of the farms, poor transportation facilities and lack of fresh water for cleaning the fibre are all serious difficulties, but with the improved prices now being paid, much can be done to overcome them. Export of cotton will begin again on a small scale in 1951.

The export of crawfish to the United States of America continues to increase steadily in volume and value and should show a marked increase in 1951. Great difficulties were experienced in the early post-war years as would-be exporters wanted to make quick profits, but had insufficient capital and lacked knowledge of the industry. These particular difficulties have been overcome. Caicos fishermen, however, are not easy to get on with as their wants are few and they have a rooted objection to regular work. This makes it difficult to operate floating and shore equipment with economy and efficiency. It is hoped that the provision of a wider range of consumer goods will provide incentives to regular work. An on-shore deep-freeze unit has been installed by the licensed exporters at Cockburn Harbour and future prospects are reasonably good. The crawfish are processed, frozen and packaged before being flown to Miami. Careful control is being exercised to avoid depletion of the banks. The industry is capable of considerable expansion.

There is a long-established trade in dried conchs (large shellfish found in profusion on the Caicos Banks) with Haiti. The crawfish licencees are shipping frozen conchs experimentally to Miami for sale in the sea food restaurants in Miami and New York.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last six years :

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Salt						
tons	11,892	19,541	70,340	70,685	52,718	9,553
value	£14,370	25,737	49,869	57,773	64,772	16,212
Conchs (dried)						
no.	3,169,300	3,353,850	36,31,750	3,149,322	1,907,200	2,735,900
value	£3,170	3,354	3,632	3,149	1,907	6,600

SOCIAL SERVICES						15
	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Conchs (frozen)						
no.	—	—	—	—	—	6,052
value	—	—	—	—	—	£24
Fish (frozen)						
lb.	—	—	—	—	—	3,083
value	—	—	—	—	—	77
Crawfish						
no.	—	—	80,000	48,000	81,687	96,526
value	—	—	£2,000	1,200	3,446	5,383
Sisal						
lb.	—	—	—	23,435	51,760	184,442
value	—	—	—	£293	647	7,000
Sisal Rope						
lb.	89,957	54,500	—	—	—	—
value	£3,610	2,800	—	—	—	—

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, for children between the ages of seven and 14 years but it is not compulsory in the out-lying Caicos Islands, where it is not possible to maintain schools to meet the requirements of some of the small isolated communities.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government. There are 11 elementary schools.

In 1949 the number of scholars enrolled was 934, and the average attendance was 674. For 1950 the figures were virtually unchanged. While the average attendance appears to be small, it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within easy reach of school.

Owing to the small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there has in the past been great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and not all of those employed can even now be regarded as being really competent. Improvement in the standard of school buildings, equipment, sanitation, playing grounds, etc. is being carried out with the aid of larger grants from the Dependency's funds and with Colonial Development and Welfare grants. An Education Officer and a Supervising Teacher were appointed during 1950 and beneficial results were already apparent by the end of the year. New school regulations and new programmes of work had been introduced, and better supplies of books and equipment obtained. At the end of 1950, plans were well advanced to rejuvenate the Senior Government School and appoint a new headmaster, to conduct an extensive

teacher-training course in 1951 and to start on the rebuilding and re-equipping of schools.

During 1950 one headmaster was sent to the United Kingdom for a year's training, and two to Mico Training College in Jamaica for a year.

The Senior Government School at Grand Turk had 28 pupils on the roll in 1949 and 23 in 1950, and the average attendance was 26 in 1949 and 21 in 1950. Figures for 1951 are expected to be about double those for 1950.

A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided, nor are there any evening classes. Manual training is being introduced at Grand Turk.

Almost the whole population is literate, and there is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a good assortment of current papers and magazines. Generous help has been given by the British Council. There are sub-libraries at six other centres.

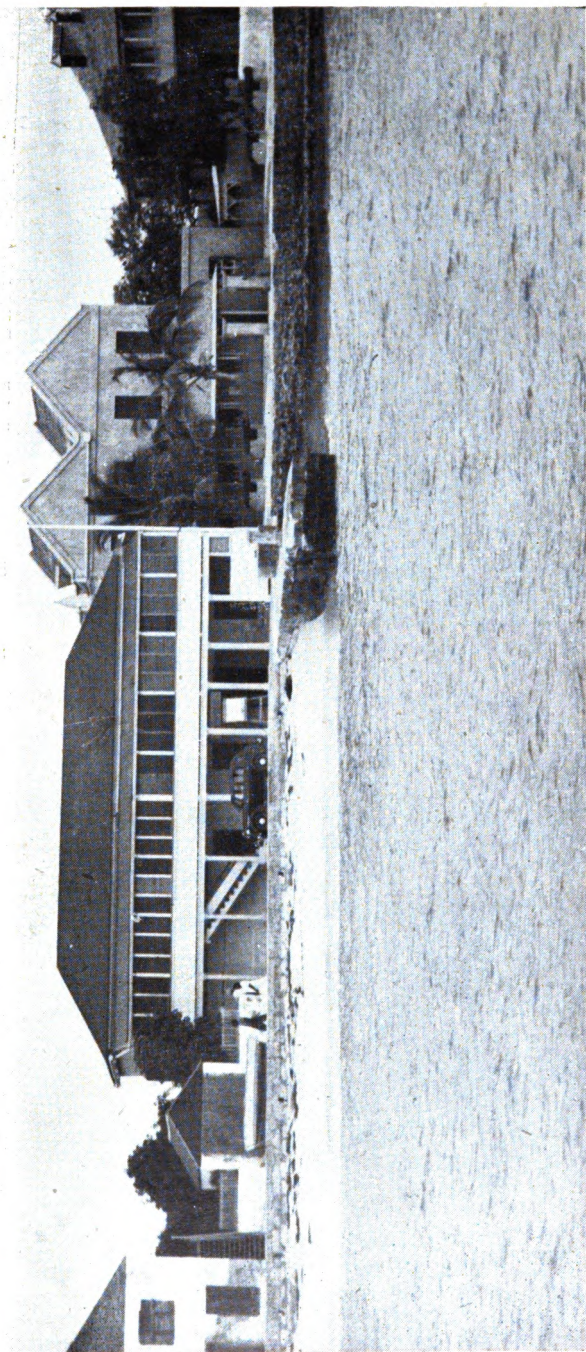
HEALTH

The principal cause of death in the Dependency is old age, which normally accounts for from one-third to one-half of all deaths. Malnutrition and a-vitaminosis, particularly of the B complex group of vitamins, are common, but their effect have been reduced by the use of food yeast and cod-liver oil which are supplied freely to children and expectant mothers.

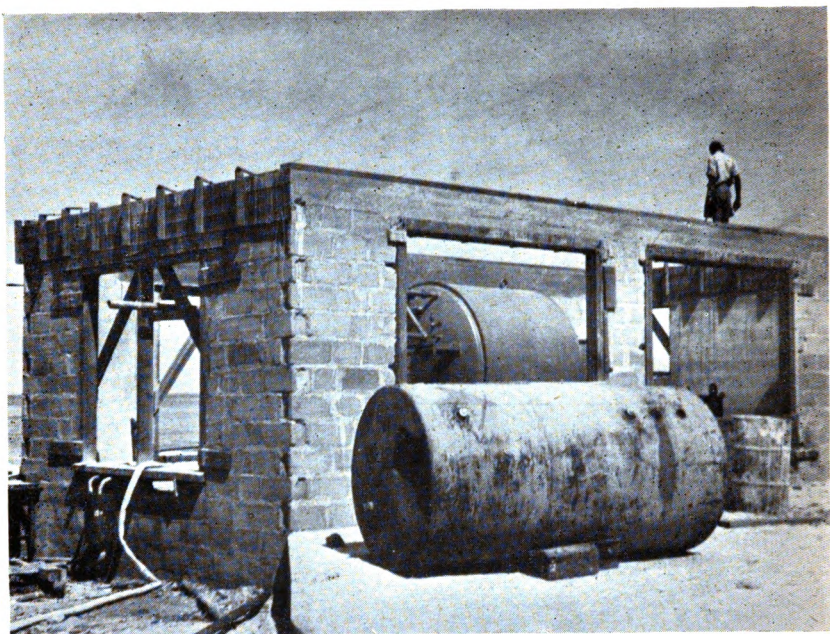
During the months of drought in the summer a marked increase in the number of flies, coupled with poor sanitation, tends to cause for a period an infective type of diarrhea, particularly among children, which resembles the sonne type of dysentery clinically. The eye condition of pterygium, caused by the excessive glare from the roads and salt ponds, is found in the salt-making islands.

There have been some cases of typhoid fever with a small number of deaths during recent years. Malaria is almost non-existent except in the Caicos Islands. Despite very severe water shortage in 1949 and 1950, health has remained good.

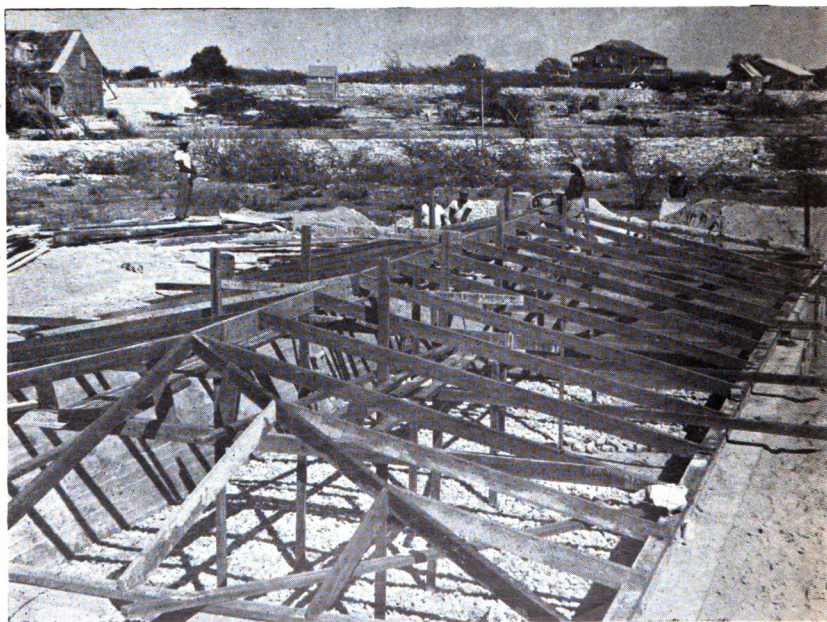
There has always been a certain amount of leprosy and at intervals lepers have been sent to Nassau, Bahamas, and to Jamaica for treatment. The main difficulties lie in securing early diagnosis and transportation to a leprosarium soon enough for treatment to be effective. In cases where leprosy is merely suspected, patients invariably refuse to go voluntarily for examination and treatment. Once diagnosis is made and segregation and treatment can be ordered compulsorily, transportation becomes almost impossible. Late in 1950 arrangements were made for all suspected lepers to be examined and for those certified as suffering from the disease to be flown from South Caicos



THE PUBLIC OFFICES AT GRAND TURK, SHOWING THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AND, TO THE RIGHT, THE TREASURY AND COUNCIL CHAMBER



WATER DISTILLING PLANT



EXCAVATION FOR THE "RECTORY TANK"

to Jamaica by chartered plane. The patients were not flown out until early in January, 1951, when they were accompanied by a nurse, a doctor, the Assistant Director of Medical Services of Jamaica and the Commissioner of the Dependency. On the last occasion when leper patients were sent to Jamaica, almost twenty years ago, the 450-mile voyage was made in a ten-ton sailing sloop.

Public Dispensary

During 1949 the Public Dispensary and Clinic at Grand Turk, which had been housed for many years in a small wooden building behind the Commissioner's Office, was moved to "The White House", a large Government building in the middle of the town, where suitable and well equipped accommodation had been prepared.

Hospitals

The only hospital in the Dependency is the Manning Hospital situated at Grand Turk. This is a 15-bed hospital of which only four beds are reserved for urgent medical and surgical cases, the remaining beds are used for paupers. The hospital has an operating theatre. Despite disadvantages, excellent work has been done by the medical staff. This old hospital is being completely renovated and will form part of the new hospital, which is now being built at Grand Turk. The existing wards will then be used as an infirmary for homeless old people. The Government intends to build a public health centre with a small emergency ward at Cockburn Harbour and a clinic at Salt Cay. These and a dental clinic at Grand Turk should be completed during 1951 and 1952. In the lower settlements of the Caicos Islands there is a welfare clinic and small maternity ward at Bottle Creek with a trained midwife in attendance.

Nursing Care

The nursing staff consists of a matron and two trained nurses at the Grand Turk Hospital, one trained nurse at the Grand Turk Dispensary and Clinic and one trained nurse at the Cockburn Harbour Dispensary. There are also three probationer nurses working in the hospital and dispensary in Grand Turk. There are trained midwives in a number of settlements.

Sanitation

Pit latrines are used throughout the islands and only a few houses have water-borne sanitation. The new hospital, including the renovated old section, will be equipped with water-borne sanitation as will all other public health buildings.

The pit latrines are in good condition and are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. Unfortunately there have to be stables for animals in the principal towns, and these act as breeding places for flies. Good results have been obtained by spraying stables and latrines with D.D.T. and Gammexane. Funds are not available for really effective sanitary work.

According to the 1943 census there were 1,365 dwelling-houses in these islands ; 889 were built of wood, 446 of stone, and 30 were of other construction. During the hurricane of 1945 the number of dwelling-houses destroyed was 536 and the number damaged was 754. Rehabilitation is now completed ; 233 houses have been rebuilt and 369 damaged houses repaired. Materials have been supplied to assist owners to repair their own houses in an additional 104 cases. The total cost was £27,757.

Nearly all the wage-earning population live in small houses of two or three rooms with small outhouses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Sanitary Inspector and Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed. The Sanitary Inspector was appointed late in 1946.

There is no building law and the people are free to build as they please. A complete revision of public health legislation and the introduction of building regulations is under consideration.

There is no property tax in this Dependency but the necessary legislation to impose one is in draft. There are no building societies.

There is no great need for additional dwellings, although many existing houses are in very poor condition and should be replaced.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There has so far been little social welfare activity. This has been due to the smallness of the population, the scattered nature of the settlements and the depressed economic conditions which have prevailed for a number of years. Lack of employment and the almost complete absence of any of the amenities of larger communities, such as sport, cinemas, dances and the like, has caused many of the younger people to leave home in search of work and more congenial surroundings. An improvement in the economic life of the Dependency provides the only real solution. The rehabilitation of the salt industry and the encouragement and revival of several minor industries is being actively pursued, but these are long-term projects.

The British Council gave an excellent 16 millimeter cinema projector. And as the Supreme Court now meets less frequently than in former years and deals with fewer cases, owing to the wider powers conferred on the Magistrate's Court, it was found possible to alter and renovate the Court House so that film shows can be held there. It now holds 120 persons in comfort, and more if there is a "Western" showing. Copies of "British News" are received regularly by air and documentary and educational films are obtained from the Central Office of Information and from the British Council. The projector is also used for special children's shows and for educational purposes. It has been a most successful venture and though it has not been possible to give shows in any of the other islands, it is hoped to do so at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay during 1951.

All that has proved possible in the Caicos Settlements has been the provision of library boxes which are exchanged at intervals with the central Victoria Library at Grand Turk. Much remains to be done before it can be felt that anything worth while has been achieved in the Caicos Settlements. Improvement will come chiefly through the schools as they are renovated and as the teachers gain new experience and get new ideas from their training courses.

During 1950 Lady Huggins, wife of His Excellency Sir John Huggins, G.C.M.G., M.C., Governor of Jamaica, visited Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour, and Salt Cay in her capacity as President of the Jamaica Federation of Women. The visit was most successful, but much follow-up work is needed if the work of the Women's Federation is to flourish.

It is proposed to institute training and set up a St. John Ambulance Division in the Caicos Settlements in 1951 to offset in part the lack of first aid and nursing facilities.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment or sickness, but relief is granted in necessitous cases and costs about £1,200 a year. There are seven friendly societies (including Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans and Shepherds) which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness and death.

The after-care of prisoners was formerly left to private charity and little was done to combat juvenile delinquency. As a result of the recommendations of the Prison Board and of the ministers of the three principal religious denominations, some improvement has been effected.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

Fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1949. These were :

- No. 1. The Tonnage Tax (Validation) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 2. The Turks and Caicos Islands Civil Servants Regulation of Duties and Salaries Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 3. The General Revenue Appropriation (1949-50) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 4. The Supplementary Appropriation (1946-47) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 5. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 6. The Hurricane Relief (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 7. The Tonnage Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 8. The Workmen's Compensation (Adoption) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 9. The Unlawful Possession of Goods Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 10. The Towns and Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

- No. 11. The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 12. The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 13. The Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 14. The Witnesses Expenses (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

Eleven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year 1950. These were :

- No. 1. The Magistrates' Code of Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 2. The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 3. The General Revenue Appropriation (1950-51) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 4. The Commissioner's (Exemption from Import Duties) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 5. The Crawford Pension Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 6. The Jury (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 7. The Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, 1949.
- No. 8. The Magistrates' Code of Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 9. The Revised Edition of Laws (Repeal of Obsolete Enactments) Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 10. The Capital Punishment Ordinance, 1950.
- No. 11. The Workmen's Compensation (Adoption) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.

By Ordinance 8 of 1949 the Workmen's Compensation Law of Jamaica was adopted. Its provisions are not particularly generous and a new Workmen's Compensation Law is in preparation in Jamaica. It is proposed to adopt the new law when it is enacted.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance enables prisoners to earn remission of sentences by good conduct.

The Jury Panel was until 1950 confined to the Islands of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, when it was extended to other settlements in the Caicos Islands. This was effected by the Jury (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 6 of 1950. To avoid hardship payments to jurors for loss of time and travelling expenses were legalised by the Witnesses Expenses (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949. The Jury (Amendment) Ordinance of 1950 also brought the local law into conformity with the Jamaica law by limiting challenges to the jury.

Overhaul of the jury system was pressed a stage further by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Ordinance of 1950 which, by removing sex disqualification, enabled women to be placed on the Jury Panel, be appointed as Justices of the Peace, etc. Curiously enough this act of emancipation was not received with any great enthusiasm, though its value is now being realised. Three women Justices of the Peace have been appointed. As a matter of interest, women appointed to the Public Service receive the same salaries as men for equal work. The appointment of women to sit on public boards and bodies has long been common and their appointment to the Legislature is now possible.

The Revised Edition of Laws (Repeal of Obsolete Enactments)

Ordinance, 1950, is the first of a series of Ordinances connected with the revision and reprinting of the laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands. One important reason for reprinting the laws is the rapid disintegration of the 1908 Edition, which was printed on extremely brittle paper. Very few existing copies of the laws are, for this reason, legible. In revising the laws a good deal of tidying up has been achieved but much remains to be done by future legislation. The Company Law and the laws affecting real property, among others, are hopelessly out of date. As an example, rights of dower still persist, as they were part of the law obtaining at the time the Dependency was separated from the Colony of the Bahamas, in 1848, and have remained unchanged ever since.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the common law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend to the Dependency legislation passed by it.

The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. By virtue of the Turks and Caicos Islands Divorce Law, 1943, jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes has also been conferred on the Supreme Court.

The operation of the jury system, as is frequently the case in small communities where the standard of education is low, is open at times to legitimate criticism. The Jury Ordinance was amended during 1950 and it provides for payment of jurors, a wider Jury Panel and women jurors. The first women Justices of the Peace have also been appointed. It is hoped by these measures to restore the prestige and integrity of the jury system.

There are three Magistrates' Courts at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

Regular Police, trained in Jamaica, are stationed in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. In the Caicos Islands there is a district constable at each of the eight principal settlements.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk into which prisoners sentenced to terms of less than 12 months' imprisonment are received. Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 12 months and more are sent to the General Penitentiary, Jamaica. There is a lock-up at Cockburn Harbour, where prisoners from the Caicos Islands may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 14 days. A considerable improvement in prison conditions has been carried out and the central prison is being extensively renovated.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

There are no public utilities in the normally accepted sense. Owing to the nature of the Islands, almost all water used for drinking and washing is rainwater stored in private and public tanks. There are 17 public tanks with a total capacity of 725,000 gallons situated as follows :

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	9	513,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	3	132,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	4,000
Total	17	725,000

There are also a number of Government wells. Drinking water is sold at 1*d.* per four gallons and frequently has to be rationed during dry periods. A programme of extending and repairing catchment area and of increasing water storage is being pursued as fast as funds permit. The increase in storage capacity at Grand Turk amounts to 158,000 gallons and there has been an increase in catchments. A second 60,000 gallon tank with an excellent concrete catchment is being purchased at Cockburn Harbour, also additional storage is being built at Salt Cay. The catchment areas in all the Islands have been repaired and the area of catchment for the North Tanks at Grand Turk was almost doubled during 1949-50.

The new hospital and public health buildings are being equipped with liberal storage tanks and catchments. The increased storage, which is not included in the total of public tanks, is :

Grand Turk	80,000 gallons
Cockburn Harbour	36,000 „
Salt Cay	6,000 „

Except in the case of severe drought for several successive years, there should be after the first period of normal rain, an adequate supply of water always available. A system of pipe-borne distribution to standpoints is an overdue measure for the public convenience, but has been delayed by lack of funds and by pressure of other work.

The small Public Works Department comprises a Building Supervisor paid under a Development grant and a Mechanical Superintendent. Almost all work is done by contract and a surprising amount of useful work is done inexpensively by this small organisation which is all the Dependency can afford. The work includes the normal care and maintenance of public buildings, roads, bridges, wharves, trucks, and also the maintenance of telephones, radio-telephone, electric charging plants and a host of other minor jobs. During 1949 and

1950, among other public works, the Government Offices were modernised and enlarged, the Council Chamber renovated and re-furnished and a section of the sea-wall at Grand Turk refaced with a concave concrete surface to reduce the pounding of the sea in heavy weather.

Chapter 11 : Communications

Before the war there was a regular steamship service between Grand Turk and the United States of America operated by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. This service has now been resumed. Elders and Fyffes steamers also called occasionally to disembark passengers and mails from the United Kingdom and to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica. During the war direct services ceased and the only regular service for several years has been by the *m.v. Kirksons*. This vessel sails at approximately monthly intervals between Grand Turk and Jamaica and carries general cargo, mails and passengers. There are also occasional direct freight shipments from the United Kingdom by Royal Mail Steamers.

There are three ports of entry, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

At the end of 1949 there were 117 and at the end of 1950 there were 121 registered vessels owned in the Dependency, totalling 1,575 and 1,599 tons respectively.

The number of vessels that entered the ports during the years was as follows :

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Net Tonnage</i>
Total shipping entered 1949	247	105,466
Total shipping entered 1950	357	132,020

There is constant communication between the Dependency, Haiti and the Bahamas Islands by small sailing vessels engaged in trade. There is occasional communication by schooners with the Dominican Republic.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

The *Compania Dominicana de Avacion (C.D.A.)* which is a Pan American subsidiary company operates a fortnightly air service from Ciudad Trujillo to Grand Turk and South Caicos airstrips. A five-seater Beechcraft twin engined machine is used and passengers and mails are carried. This service connects with the regular Pan American flights to and from Jamaica and elsewhere.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via Jamaica. The Post Office dealt with about 200,000 postal articles during the year 1950.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable and Wireless Ltd. supplies a news bulletin daily, for which Government pays a subsidy.

The Government radio-telephone system, which is run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless Ltd., provides a service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

Before the hurricane of 1945 there was a small Government-operated telephone service at Grand Turk ; there were 12 connections to Government quarters, offices, hospital, etc., and 16 private connections. The telephone system was destroyed in the hurricane but has now been reconstructed and has 45 connections. It is to be further extended.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in good condition during the year. A motor roller was purchased in 1950 and an improvement to roads and airstrip at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour will be possible. A few motor cars and an increasing number of motor trucks are in use. Pedal cycles are becoming increasingly popular. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bush paths.

There are no railways, tramways, or omnibuses. Most travelling is by boat between islands.

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50' west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these Islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands which lie to the west of the channel surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side, and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively.

In his Survey of Sponge Grounds (1938), Dr. H. H. Brown describes the geological structure of the Caicos Bank as precisely similar to that of the Bahamas. "A flat-topped rock rises steeply from the ocean bed consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin ; this rock mass comprises the whole Caicos Banks and Cays and is similar to other rock masses of the Bahama group."

The northern and eastern sides of the Bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

At varying distance from the ocean coast line of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef. Dr. Brown writes, "This reef of living coral is superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers on which the sea breaks heavily. It is therefore very dangerous to navigate." On the island "the limestone is weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." On the bank coast of these islands there is found "a mangrove and seawater swamp which is intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate and had resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock." Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. The first beginning from the north consists of white mud or marl under some three or four feet of water ; the second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth ; the

third, a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank." The ground had enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface, which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds ; it can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass and burrowing animals (Annelida Mullusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant in the surface.

The last zone under shallow water consists of clean shifting biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide.

At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found "the barrier reef from the edge of which soundings drop down with spectacular suddenness."

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extend for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° minimum to 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December is generally pleasant. At Grand Turk the average rainfall for the last five years has been 29.51 inches. The rainfall for 1949 was 21.58 inches and 1950 17.38 inches. The average for the past five years was 20.91, but the average for the last 30 years is well over 25 inches a year.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction owing to the velocity of the wind which exceeded 150 miles an hour, but as the wind came from the east there was no damage due to heavy seas.

Chapter 2 : History

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembles a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt-raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt-raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1770, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruptions by Spanish attacks. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. Then, in the year 1766, an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government, and so they remained

until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. This system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are subject to hurricanes. Severe hurricanes occurred in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926, 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage done by the hurricane of 1945 and even this sum was inadequate to deal with more than part of the damage. Generous help was received from the British and Jamaica Governments and from subscribers in Jamaica, Bermuda and Nassau.

A number of endeavours have been made by means of subsidies to secure a regular steamer service with Jamaica but they have been short-lived, the first contract being with the Atlas Company in 1873. Since 1940 it has proved impossible to maintain any regular steamer service.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company which later became known as the Direct West India Cable Company Ltd. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941 when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Ltd., who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt, Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Ltd., are still operated by Government. It is believed that this was the first radio-telephone service to be operated by a British Dependency. Cable & Wireless Ltd. also established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941. A direct radio-telephone service between Grand Turk and Jamaica was opened by Cable & Wireless Ltd. on 1st December, 1947.

During the second world war an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The last garrison had been withdrawn over 80 years before when a detachment of the 1st West India Regiment under the command of Ensign Nolan was withdrawn to Nassau. A temporary air base was established by the United States Army Air Force on South Caicos Island in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The base and strip were handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947. A small airstrip for light aircraft was also constructed at Grand Turk during 1947. A regular air service was inaugurated between Ciudad Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and the Dependency, during 1949.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to this Dependency by one of His Majesty's Ministers, though the Dependency had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal family, His Royal Highness Prince George

(later the Duke of Kent) having visited Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban*, in which he was then serving as a lieutenant.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice accompanied by the Right Honourable the Earl of Athlone called at Grand Turk in S.S. *Cavina* on 11th February, 1950, on her way to Jamaica to be installed as Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

The Salt Industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1774 onwards worked on a "head right" system under which an allocation of salt pond was made on 10th February of each year to every freeman present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1862 to a freehold system when the leasees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of ten per cent of the value of the salt exported. On 5th March, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by His Excellency the Hon. D. C. MacGillivray, C.M.G., M.B.E., Acting Governor of Jamaica, and on 9th April, 1951, the salinas and all the ancillary property used in making, processing, transporting and shipping salt were vested in a Government controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which company also received the exclusive right to export salt from the Dependency. This was the third great change in the method of tenure, in the history of the salt industry.

Chapter 3 : Administration

The Government is administered by a Commissioner who is also President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. C. E. Wool-Lewis, O.B.E., assumed the duties of Commissioner in October, 1946.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are a number of Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters. There is also a Salt Industry Board appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

Certain laws of Jamaica are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk where the Commissioner resides. Other settlements are Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos where there is a District Commissioner, and Salt Cay on the island of that name, where there is a Government Officer. There are 10 settlements in the Caicos Islands all of which are inhabited solely by people of African origin, and at each of which there is a District Constable.

During the year the Commissioner visited Cockburn Harbour and

Salt Cay on a number of occasions. The difficulties of administering the scattered settlements of the Dependency were lessened by the purchase of a motor-launch for which a grant was provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. During 1947 and 1948 the launch was out of commission awaiting repairs. But a new launch was purchased and arrived in the Dependency early in 1949, and has proved very successful despite difficulties over maintenance.

District Boards have been established in four of the larger Caicos settlements to advise on public health, water supplies, communications and other matters of local interest. These Boards have already shown themselves to be of value and to provide a useful link between the people of remoter parts of the Dependency and Government.

The Commissioner visited Jamaica a number of times during the year in connection with plans for development and welfare, the re-organisation of the salt industry, and general administrative matters. The Acting Governor of Jamaica visited Cockburn Harbour and Grand Turk in December, 1950.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

No newspapers or periodicals are published in the Dependency. The *Official Gazette* is published weekly.

Chapter 6 : Reading List

- BROWN, DR. H. M., M.A. *Survey of Sponge Ground, Jamaica*, Government Printer, 1938.
- Financial and Economic Position : Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica*. London, Crown Agents, 1937, for the Government of Jamaica.
- PUSEY, REV. J. H. *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands*. Kingston, Colonial Publishers Co. Ltd. (out of print).
- TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricanes of 1926 and 1928*. London, Waterlow, 1928, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- WALTON-SMITH, F. G., A.R.C.S., B.Sc., Ph.D. (Lond.). *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida*. Caribbean Commission Fishery Series, No. 3. Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry*. Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.
- WATKINS, F. H. *Turks and Caicos Islands ; Report on the Salt Industry*. Cd. 4326, 1908. (H.M.S.O., price 2½d, by post 4d).

APPENDIX

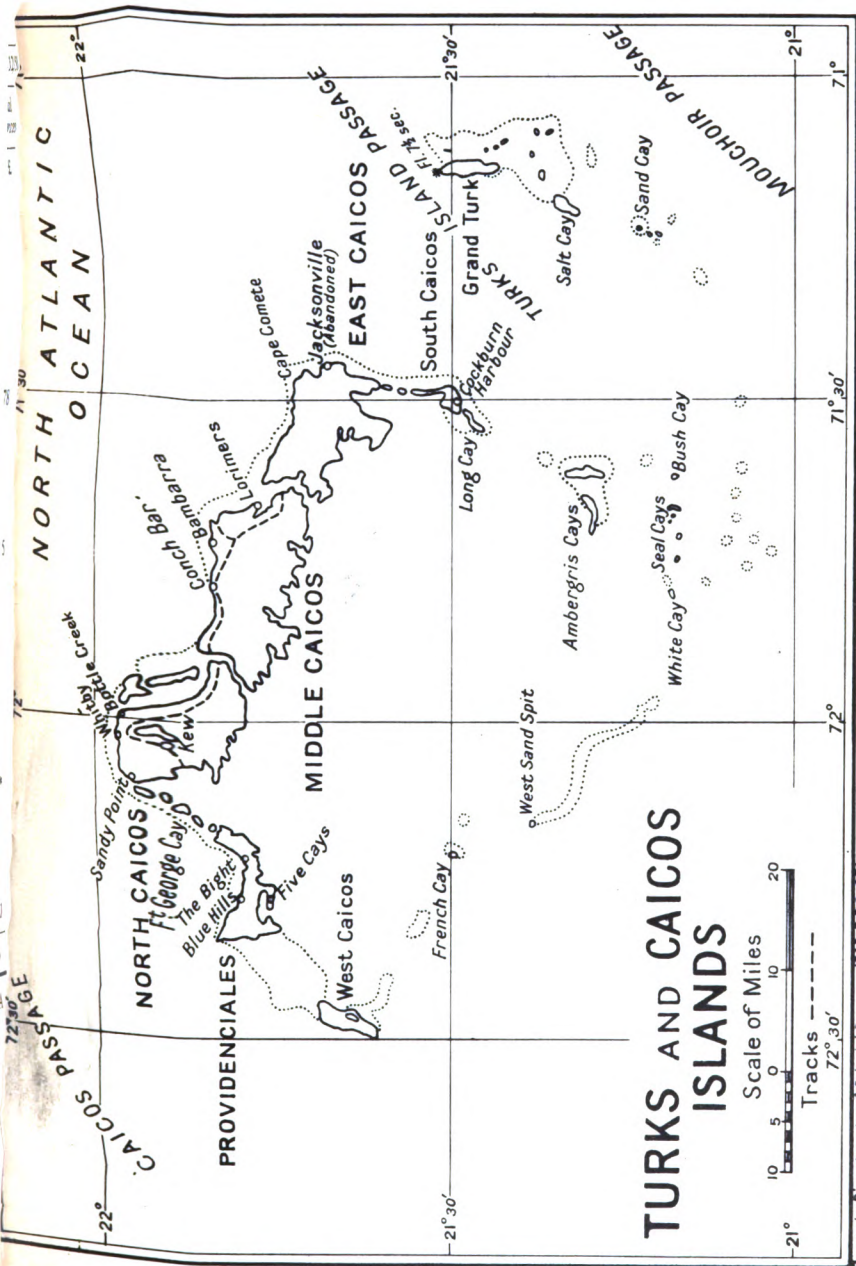
COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES INITIATED OR IN PROGRESS DURING THE YEARS 1949 AND 1950

<i>Scheme Number</i>	<i>Title of Scheme</i>	<i>Approved Grant</i>	<i>Expenditure to 31/12/50</i>	
			<i>C.D. & W. Funds</i>	<i>Local Resources</i>
		£	£	£
D13B(v)	Construction of a Tank at Cockburn Harbour, and Repairs and Renovations to Wells in the Caicos Islands	450	450	232
D13B(aa)	Sports Equipment	150	90	
D138	Agricultural Improvement	10,000	8,182	
D211B	Supplementary Grant to provide a Manager, Salt Industry, for two years from July 18th, 1947	1,480	1,480	62
D211C	Extension of period of Manager, Salt Industry to October 31st, 1949	267	230	
D211D	Extension of period of Manager, Salt Industry, to March 31st, 1950	334	334	
D211E	Extension of period of Manager, Salt Industry to September 30th, 1950	480	420	
D211F	Extension of period of Manager, Salt Industry, to November 30th, 1950	141	140	
D658	Employment of a Building Supervisor for a period of five years (Expires May 30th, 1951)	2,555	2,170	
D828A	Loading Equipment, etc. (Supplementary to Grant of £1,720, D828 which provided Two Steel Barges and Three Trip Buckets)	3,000	2,576	
D832	Contribution of £600 per annum for five years toward the salary of the Commissioner during the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner (Expires April 14th, 1953)	3,000	1,627	

APPENDIX—continued

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31/12/50	
			C.D.&W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D967	Erection and Operation for a period of five years of an unattended Light at Great Sand Cay Capital £4,150 Recurrent 500	4,650	5,032	
D1126	The Reorganisation of the Educational System of the Turks and Caicos Islands	21,310	2,256	5,478
D1162	Provision for the cost of a Six Year Course at the Faculty of Medicine of the University College of the West Indies for a Candidate from the Turks and Caicos Islands	1,815	691	275
D1222	The Provision of a Cinema Projector for Educational and Recreational Purposes at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos	430	422	
D1360 & A	The Reorganisation and Improvement of the Public Health System of the Turks and Caicos Islands, including the detention of Lepers	40,200	7,390	*
D1452	The Improvement of Water Storage Facilities in the Dependency	4,000	1,800	
D1474	Clerical Assistance	1,210	28	31
Total		95,472	35,318	6,078

* Recurrent Expenditure from Local Resources in respect of Scheme D1360 & A commences during the years 1951 and 1952.



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REPORT ON THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)

FOR THE YEARS
1951 and 1952

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PART I

Review of 1951 & 1952

THE years 1951 and 1952 must join that long tally of lean years in the history of the Dependency. The depression in the salt industry, already apparent in 1950, continued in an aggravated degree during the years under review. In April, 1951, after much discussion with those concerned, the salt industry was nationalised so as to bring the many small salt-pond holdings under one management. Though experience had shown that this step was essential, one of its immediate effects was the disappearance from the islands of some of the previous salt-pond owners who had long played a leading part in the life of the community—a loss the dependency could ill afford.

It was unfortunate that the inauguration of public ownership coincided with deepening depression in the industry, and the heralded reforms were held up by the lack of means to carry them out. Towards the end of 1951 unemployment was again so acute that the Government was forced to spend considerable sums on relief works and this, coupled with the reduced revenue consequent on the fall in purchasing power, and the completion of expensive schemes for improvements in social services and amenities embarked on in more prosperous times, brought about a financial crisis of startling proportions and suddenness. This was aggravated by the fact that it came to a head during the interregnum between the departure of the previous Commissioner and the arrival of his successor. Certain fiscal measures, some taken as a result of recommendations made by Mr J. B. Clegg, Under Secretary (Economics) to the Jamaica Government, who paid a short visit to the Dependency in October, 1951, helped to alleviate the position, but the drain on the Government's resources was not properly halted until the construction of the American Guided Missile Observation Station and airstrip began to bring temporary employment and prosperity to Grand Turk in April, 1952.

The construction of this Base, one of a chain of such observer stations running through the Bahamas to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, will go down as a major event in the history of the Dependency. "B" Company of the 838th Engineer Air Battalion of the U.S. Army landed on Grand Turk at the end of March, 1952, and, supported by a formidable array of machinery, earth-moving and rock-crushing equipment, undertook the construction of a 5,000-ft. asphalt-topped airstrip running practically the whole width of the island. This was completed early in November, when the engineers departed and a holding party of the U.S. Airforce took over pending the completion of the Base buildings.

The civil contractors responsible for building the base itself, the MacDonald Construction Company of St. Louis, experienced great difficulty in the transporting of supplies and equipment from the United States, and although their advance party arrived very shortly after the Engineers, the building operations proper did not begin until some three months later. Then, however, they moved with impressive speed ; the local supply of skilled carpenters was quickly exhausted and 94 carpenters were flown in from Jamaica. Full employment resulted during the second half of 1952 and is expected to continue for two to three months in 1953, when operations should be completed. Residual employment at the Base will be comparatively small, but will be a useful source of permanent employment for some forty of the inhabitants of Grand Turk.

Although the face of Grand Turk has been greatly modernised by all these activities, the basic problems of water-supply and of providing a steady livelihood for the population remain. These problems are largely beyond local control, and the present state is likely to continue for some years.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the Dependency at the time of the last census in 1943 was 6,138, made up as follows :

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent	122

The number of females exceeded the number of males by 19.9 per cent.

Since the time of the census the number of persons of European and mixed descent has continued to decrease steadily, although the former was temporarily inflated during most of 1952 by the presence of 150 Americans engaged on the construction of the Guided Missile Base. It is expected that the permanent complement of this Base will be in the neighbourhood of 100 persons.

The population of the principal settlements is roughly estimated to be:

Grand Turk	2,000
Salt Cay	300
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	700
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	1,500
Kew (North Caicos)	300
Blue Hills (Providenciales)	800

Although the birth rate continues to be far in excess of the death rate, the drain of emigration leaves the total population virtually unchanged, with females greatly outnumbering males. It is estimated that at any given time up to 50 per cent of the adult male population of the islands is absent, seeking a livelihood abroad. This is particularly noticeable in the Caicos Islands, where the ratio of women to men at any meeting or public function is frequently more than 3 to 1.

The births and deaths registered during the last eight years were as follows :

	<i>Number of Births</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1,000</i>
1945	249	234	38.9	36.5
1946	204	93	31.3	14.3
1947	220	82	33.8	12.6
1948	195	88	30.0	13.5
1949	227	73	34.9	11.2
1950	240	80	36.9	12.3
1951	239	71	36.8	10.9
1952	243	79	37.4	12.1

The rates are based on an estimated total population of 6,500. The high death rate in 1945 was due to a severe hurricane.

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1951 and 1952 was 26 and 20 or 108·7 and 82·3 per 1,000 births respectively.

Forty-seven marriages were registered in 1951 and 37 in 1952.

Immigration figures were :

	1951	1952
Entered . . .	198	486
Departed . . .	228	750

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

Employment in the salt industry has been at a low ebb during the years under review, and the improvements in labour conditions and shipping methods expected as a result of the unification of the industry under Government control were defeated by the deepening depression. Although a certain amount of steady work on a reduced scale, mostly of a care and maintenance nature, has continued at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, activity on Grand Turk practically ceased, and the Turks Islands Salt Company devoted most of its energies in 1952 to acting as entrepreneur for the contractors and others engaged on the construction of the Guided Missile Base.

In order to ensure fair allocation of work on the Base, and to safeguard the supply of labour for loading salt should the occasion arise, the Turks Islands Government carried out a registration of all labour applying for work, and the Turks Islands Salt Company accepted a contract to act as recruiting and paying agent for all labour required by the Army Engineers. A similar agreement affecting recruiting only was intermittently operative with the civilian contractors. Every effort was made to rotate the unskilled labour so that all might share in the temporary prosperity. This was not always popular with the employers but as the momentum of construction increased practically full employment resulted and the issue ceased to be a live one.

After exhausting local resources the civil contractors brought in 94 carpenters from Jamaica. These men, although receiving £3 per week subsistence allowance in addition to free quarters and the fixed local rate of 2s. 8d. per hour, found conditions little to their liking, and went on strike for higher pay within a few weeks of their arrival. The strike

was eventually settled through the intervention of the Jamaica Labour Department, and all have now (March, 1953) returned to Jamaica on completion of the work.

Lobster and conch fishing continued to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands, but here, as elsewhere in the Dependency, an increasing number of the adult males left to seek employment in the salt industry at Inagua and the lumber industry at Abaco, both in the Bahamas. Employment on steamers continued. Persistent persuasion in the past is now bearing fruit, and most of the men in employment abroad send regular remittances to their families.

As a result of the continued increase in the cost of living, wages paid by the Turks Islands Salt Company were raised 1s. per day in March and a further 1s. per day in September, 1952, to 7s. 6d. and 8s. per day of eight hours for unskilled labour. Little such labour was employed, however. Other rates, all of which reflected marked increases during 1952, were as follows :

Carpenters, Masons, etc.	. . .	15s. per day
Truck drivers, Mechanics	. . .	12s. to 15s. per day
Domestic Servants (female)	. . .	20s. to 80s. per month (usually with rations)

The following scales of wages, fixed by agreement between the local and the United States authorities, were paid for work on the Guided Missile Base, which provided more than 90 per cent of the employment in Grand Turk during 1952 :

		<i>per hour</i>
Stevedores	. . .	1s. 9d.
Casual Labour (Male)	. . .	1s. 6d.
Casual Labour (Female)	. . .	1s.
Semi-skilled Carpenters	. . .	2s.
Fully qualified Carpenters	. . .	2s. 8d.

As a 10-hour day was normally worked, the men received considerably higher wages than they had ever received before. This, added to the presence first of 150 American soldiers and later of almost 100 Jamaican carpenters, had a highly inflationary effect on the prices of goods and services. The cost of living had continued to rise with world prices, and was further increased by the removal of food subsidies in April, 1952, a measure necessitated by the financial plight of the Government. All these factors combined to create very real hardship for the minority who did not share in the general prosperity, amongst whom were the Government servants. Proposals were made for upward revision of salaries late in 1952, with an average increase of 15 per cent, and were subsequently approved, to come into effect on 1st April, 1953.

An indication of the rise in prices is given in the following table of basic foodstuffs. Other prices, not being so strictly controlled, have increased to an even greater degree.

RETAIL PRICES

	Unit	1948	1950	1952
Beef, pickled . . .	lb.	1s. 3d.	1s. 10d.	2s. 10d.
Beans, red kidney	qt.	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.	3s.
Corn	qt.	5d.	6d.	1s.
Cornmeal	lb.	2½d.	5d.	6½d.
Flour	lb.	5d.	5½d.	6½d.
Evaporated Milk .	lb.	4s.	4s. 10d.	5s. 5d.
Lard	lb.	1s. 6d.	1s. 4½d.	1s. 9d.
Margarine	lb.	1s. 5d.	1s. 5d.	2s. 5d.
Condensed Milk .	14 oz	9d.	10½d.	1s. 6d.
Pork, pickled . .	lb.	1s. 3d.	1s. 5d.	2s.
Rice	qt.	1s.	1s. 1d.	1s. 8d.
Sugar	lb.	6d.	7d.	7d.
Cabbage	lb.	6d.	8d.	1s.
Oranges	doz.	9d.	1s.	1s. 6d.
Potatoes, Irish .	lb.	4½d.	4½d.	7½d.
Potatoes, sweet .	lb.	3d.	4d.	7d.
Plantains	each	1½d.	2½d.	3d.
Meat, Jamaican .	lb.	—	2s.	2s. 9d.
Onions	lb.	6d.	6d.	1s.

There are two trade unions in the Dependency, the Turks Islands Workers Union at Grand Turk and the St. George's Union at Cockburn Harbour. The Turks Islands Workers Union made strenuous efforts to obtain higher wages for employment on the Guided Missile Base, but received little support in its claims to represent the labour employed. No returns have been received from this Union for some years, and it would appear to have few regular active members.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

The financial crisis which arose in the summer of 1951 was the culmination of a period of increasing Government expenditure as a result of post-war development plans, and decreasing revenues resulting from economic stagnation. The budget deficits in 1950-51 and 1951-52 were £14,291 and £22,446 respectively. Revenue from postage stamps, which had averaged £18,574 or 45 per cent of total revenue during the seven years 1944-51 and had reached a peak of £28,966 a year for the

three years 1948-51, fell away sharply in 1951-52 to £2,748. These and other factors combined to leave the Dependency with an estimated deficit of £38,627 on its current account with the Jamaica Government on 1st April, 1952. Against this may be set assets totalling £27,545, the main items of which were £10,000 reserve fund and £9,000 estimated value of unallocated stores.

There is no authorised public debt, but in addition to the above deficit, an advance of £50,000 from the Jamaica Treasury is used to finance the trading operations of the Turks Islands Importers Limited (see Chapter 5—Commerce). Also in April, 1951, the Dependency received an interest-free Colonial Development and Welfare loan of £50,000 which was invested in ordinary shares of the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited (see Chapter 6—Production).

Revenue and expenditure during the past four years were as follows (the figures for the last two years are revised estimates) :

REVENUE

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	£	£	£	£
Customs	16,844	18,879	18,250	32,000
Salt Royalty	7,108	1,868	3,250	1,800
Port Dues	823	651	570	500
Licences & Other Internal Revenue	622	413	345	695
Fees of Court and Office . .	272	247	565	580
Departmental Revenue . .	170	204	161	360
Reimbursements	1,291	1,186	2,433	3,205
Post Office	23,782	23,826	2,780	4,835
Interest	639	564	560	490
Miscellaneous	2,835	8,965	10,146	3,315
Total Ordinary Revenue . .	54,386	56,803	39,060	47,780
Colonial Development & Welfare				
Schemes	7,588	20,487	26,707	12,943
Imperial Food Subsidy . .	28,000	—	—	—
Investments	11,500	—	56,000	—
Industries	—	—	—	12,195
Insurance—Motor Launch “ President Forth ”. . .	—	—	—	2,970
Land Sales	—	—	—	1
Total Revenue	101,474	77,290	121,767	75,889

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

EXPENDITURE

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	772	1,364	1,395	3,702
Commissioner's Department	6,551	7,223	7,986	6,625
Treasury and Customs	3,888	4,125	4,639	3,864
Judicial Department	1,453	1,486	1,494	3,479
Police Department	2,829	2,780	2,965	2,917
Prison Department	1,517	1,113	1,508	1,391
Medical Department	7,147	6,593	7,468	7,528
Paupers and Lunatics	1,201	1,226	1,340	1,290
Education	2,686	3,819	4,000	4,765
Miscellaneous	3,533	8,372	5,139	4,226
Post Office	2,677	4,734	1,635	2,046
Lighthouses	2,096	1,223	779	852
Savings Bank	357	380	392	392
Public Works Department	771	2,037	2,170	2,075
Public Works Recurrent	4,253	4,840	4,340	2,490
Food Control Department	—	—	1,470	1,485
Total Ordinary Expenditure	41,731	51,315	48,720	49,127
Public Works Extraordinary	5,494	4,393	467	7,890*
Grant to Hurricane Relief Fund	830	—	—	—
Industries	1,484	5,989	4,858	7,200
Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes	9,500	18,764	31,020	12,643
Repayment of Instalment loan re Sisal Farms	800	800	800	—
Land Purchases	147	825	—	700
Imperial Food Subsidy	28,000	—	—	—
Food Control Department	3,036	4,280	—	—
Investments	11,500	—	56,000	—
Unallocated Stores	4,444	3,703	1,000	2,000 cr.
Various	64	—	1,315	—
Cost of Living Allowance	—	1,508	33	—
Total Expenditure	107,030	91,577	144,213	75,560

*Includes purchase of new launch.

The series of increasing deficits was brought to an end, and a small surplus achieved in 1952-53 by strict economy in Government expenditure and by various measures taken to increase the revenue, the more important of which are detailed below :

	<i>Estimated Annual Yield</i>
	£
Conch and Crawfish Export Tax	1,000
Trade (Surcharge) Tax (2½ % and 5 %)	4,000
Miscellaneous Licences	200
Increase of 5 % on General Unclassified Tariff (now 15 % and 20 %)	2,500

These would not in themselves have sufficed had it not been for the inflationary effect on local purchasing power of the full employment and higher wages provided in the construction of the Guided Missile Base. The position is by no means stable, and it remains to be seen whether it can be maintained after the construction of the Base is completed.

No direct taxation is levied in the Dependency, there being neither poll, income nor property tax. The part played by the salt industry as a revenue producer has declined sharply since 1949 and shows little sign of recovering. This has been offset to some extent by the profits made by the Government in handling the Caicos sisal crop, but prices have recently fallen and the future is uncertain.

In general the financial position continues to give anxiety and the future is obscure. The day of reckoning has been postponed by the forbearance of the Jamaica Government, by the prospect of a new stamp issue, and by the arrival of the Americans. Whether increased revenue will result from the presence of the latter or whether the Dependency will be able to maintain unaided the present standards of its services is a matter of grave doubt.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is Jamaica notes and British silver of all denominations. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be :

	£
Jamaica Notes	30,000
Jamaica Nickel	50
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the Dependency. The Government Savings Bank held, on 31st December, 1952, a total of £70,687 in 1,694 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £83,364 and £82,786 respectively during the year. These inflated figures were due to the fact that the Bank was used by the American civilian contractors engaged on the Guided Missile Base. Although the rate of interest was maintained at 2½ per cent the Bank's reserves were wiped out during 1951 and 1952 by the fall in the value of its investments.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The value of imports and exports during the last six years was as follows :

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	72,244	82,756	102,524	101,630	127,125	133,041
Exports	55,501	62,415	70,772	35,296	56,972	35,509

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past six years :

	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1947 . .	1,116	54,882	16,246	72,244
1948 . .	622	52,831	29,303	82,756
1949 . .	36,742	50,529	15,253	102,524
1950 . .	32,437	40,509	28,684	101,630
1951 . .	27,330	65,961	33,834	127,125
1952 . .	19,784	65,497	47,760	133,041

The classified summary of imports for the years 1949-52 is given below :

	1949	1950	1951	1952
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco . .	62,900	70,390	81,850	86,202
Raw materials . .	5,460	9,436	9,351	8,043
Manufactured articles . .	30,700	19,472	32,986	36,367
Unclassified . .	3,464	2,332	2,938	2,429

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin and indicates the changes taking place in the direction of trade :

	1949	1950	1951	1952
	%	%	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco . .	88%	70%	75%	60%
Raw materials . .	84%	87%	92%	82%
Manufactured articles . .	79%	72%	65%	68%
Unclassified . .	89%	62%	63%	92%

The decline in Commonwealth trade is due largely to the reluctance of British shipping companies to stop at Grand Turk, although their ships pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage. It is also due to the decline in the salt trade with Newfoundland.

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports :

		<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>
		£	£	£
1947 } . . .	Not		23,627	31,874
1948 } . . .	available		25,448	36,967
1949 . . .	10,006		26,605	34,161
1950 . . .	18,709		1,168	15,419
1951 . . .	19,807		21,847	15,318
1952 . . .	17,990		3,733	13,786

Remittances from abroad were estimated to total £23,000 in 1951 and £25,000 in 1952.

FOOD CONTROL

Upwards of 90 per cent of the total import trade of the Dependency in 1951-52 was handled by the Food Control Department, a Government owned and operated trading concern financed by an advance of some £50,000 from the Jamaica Treasury. Relatively large-scale importing backed by Government prestige had such obvious advantages during the war-time and post-war period of controls that local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices. Indeed a system whereby the retail trader is relieved of the necessity to carry more than 14 days supplies proved very attractive in a community where the traders have little capital, initiative or knowledge of commerce.

During 1951-52 the Food Control Department showed a profit of £7,221 on a turn-over of £122,000. The whole of this profit was either used to subsidise the price of basic foodstuffs (£6,160) or put towards the writing off of previous defalcations. Since the cessation of the Imperial Food Subsidies in 1950, it is estimated that £18,000 of the profits of the Food Control Department, which would otherwise have accrued to the Treasury, were used for food subsidisation. All food subsidies ceased on 1st April, 1952.

On 1st November, 1952, the Food Control Department was converted into a Government-owned limited liability company known as the Turks Islands Importers Limited. The policy was laid down that all profits should go to the reduction of the Jamaica Treasury advance, and the more speculative aspects of the department's trading in textiles and dry goods have been greatly curtailed.

With the Government handling most of the import trade an automatic price control tended to operate, in addition to the formal controls imposed by the Competent Authority under the Jamaica Defence Regulations. With the setting up of the Turks Islands Importers Limited all price control powers have reverted to the Commissioner, and are exercised only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

Chapter 6: Production

The quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows :

	1949	1950	1951	1952
Salt				
tons . . .	52,718	9,553	22,558	10,319
value . . .	£64,772	£16,212	£33,184	£18,290
Conchs (dried)				
number . . .	1,907,200	2,735,900	3,126,350	2,527,200
value . . .	£1,907	£6,600	£6,138	£5,054
Conchs (frozen)				
lbs.	—	6,052	53,340	20,830
value	—	£24	£2,667	£1,317
Crawfish				
lbs.	81,687	96,526	73,920	35,200
value	£3,446	£5,383	£6,468	£2,653
Sisal				
lbs.	51,760	184,442	135,810	168,635
value	£647	£7,000	£8,470	£8,195

Salt

The production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the basic industry of the Dependency. Production is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production.

Three grades of salt are exported : coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish ; and granulated, suitable for industrial and agricultural uses. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, the industrial in bags. A fine salt plant capable of producing salt for domestic use was installed in 1951, but although salt of the required fineness was produced it proved impossible to dehydrate it sufficiently without further expensive machinery for which capital was not available.

Until the end of 1952 the bulk loading of salt was still carried on by traditional methods, i.e. shovels, half-bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and sailing lighters, as on none of the salt islands can a vessel drawing more than six feet come alongside a wharf. These antiquated methods made it impossible to give a loading rate approaching 1,000 tons a day, which appears to be a present day minimum for large vessels, with the result that no large shipments were made during 1952.

As stated in the last report, the Turks Islands Salt Company took over the ownership and operation of the Salt industry from the private owners in April, 1951. The Company had a capital of £170,000, made up of a £60,000 debenture held by the Colonial Development Corpor-

ation, 54,000 5½% cumulative preference shares held by the previous owners, and 56,000 ordinary shares held by the Turks Islands Government, 50,000 of which were purchased with a Colonial Development and Welfare interest-free loan. This capital was fully committed by December, 1952, and certain improved loading equipment had been obtained, including five 25-ton barges, conveyor belts, tip-trucks, tractors and a mechanical grab. There seems little doubt that further capital will be required if the industry is to be placed on a sound and competitive footing. No dividends have so far been paid on the preference or ordinary shares.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of salt shipped in 1951 and 1952 :

<i>Destination</i>	1951		1952	
	<i>Quantity tons</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity tons</i>	<i>Value £</i>
British West Indies :				
Barbados	—	—	206	288
Jamaica	5,564	11,337	4,740	9,794
St. Vincent	267	282	—	—
Canada	16,727	21,565	2,186	3,445
United States of America	—	—	3,187	4,763
Total	22,558	33,184	10,319	18,290

The average price per ton received in 1951 was £1 9s. 5d. and in 1952 £1 15s. 5d. The price of coarse salt, which normally forms the bulk of the shipments, on the world market at the time of writing probably does not exceed \$2.50 (U.S.) or 18s. per ton f.o.b. the Dependency's ports. With the continuing increase in the cost of imports and the cost of living, and consequently of wages, it is becoming a matter of some doubt whether salt can be economically produced at such a price.

Fisheries

Second in importance of the Dependency's exports are dried conchs, some three million of which are exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Islands to Haiti. The price received for these conchs remained high in 1952, and the value is understated in the table on p. 14. Prices reached \$2.00 (U.S.) per 100 in Cap Haitien. The trade is so popular that efforts by the American crawfish exporters to buy fresh conchs at Cockburn Harbour for sale frozen in Miami have made little headway, despite higher prices offered.

The crawfish industry in Caicos has been passing through an unsatisfactory stage, and catches have continued to fall. This is largely due to lack of efficient and reliable organisation on the part of the licence-holders, who have failed to hold the interest, never very strong, and build up the confidence of the Caicos fishermen. The Caicos Bank must be one of the few remaining fisheries where it is permissible to

spear lobsters and there can be no doubt that the Bank, if adequately covered, is capable of a sustained yield considerably in excess of that now being taken.

Other fisheries are undeveloped. Sponges remain few and far between, and fresh fish is difficult to obtain in Grand Turk. Interest in commercial fishing is apparent, however, and a modern fishing launch equipped with refrigeration and echo-sounder is expected to arrive early in 1953.

Sisal

Sisal continues to be a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Some 600 acres of this crop were planted at Government expense in 1944 and have proved an excellent investment. Many small private farms have since been planted. Output, at 70 tons, is relatively insignificant, and quality is poor, as might be expected of fibre which is extracted by being beaten with stones after having been buried in the sand of the foreshore, but the price obtained in Jamaica is sufficient to enable 5d. per pound of fibre to be paid to the peasant producer at his front door. Owing to the scattered nature of the farms and the lack of fresh water for retting purposes there is little future in the peasant production of this crop. At one time, prior to 1913, there are said to have been 6,000 acres under sisal at West Caicos, now uninhabited, and signs of very considerable development are still apparent. Some interest was shown in the island early in 1952, but no action has resulted.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

The education system of the Dependency is under the control of a Board of Education of which the Commissioner is chairman. During the two years under review administration has been in the hands of an Education Officer, seconded from Jamaica, whose chief task was to carry out a reorganisation based on a report by the Deputy Director of Education, Jamaica. His salary and a considerable part of the cost of reorganisation were paid for by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant.

Plans for rebuilding, extension and repair of most of the schools are in the course of execution. At Grand Turk a teachers' rest room, store rooms and anti-glare screens were constructed. The schools at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour were extended and a new school building was completed in 1952 at Blue Hills (Providenciales) to replace the one destroyed in the 1945 hurricane. A major extension to the Bottle Creek School is in progress. Two hundred and fifty desks and forms, together with many blackboards and easels, were imported from Jamaica and distributed amongst the schools, but equipment and furniture are still deficient.

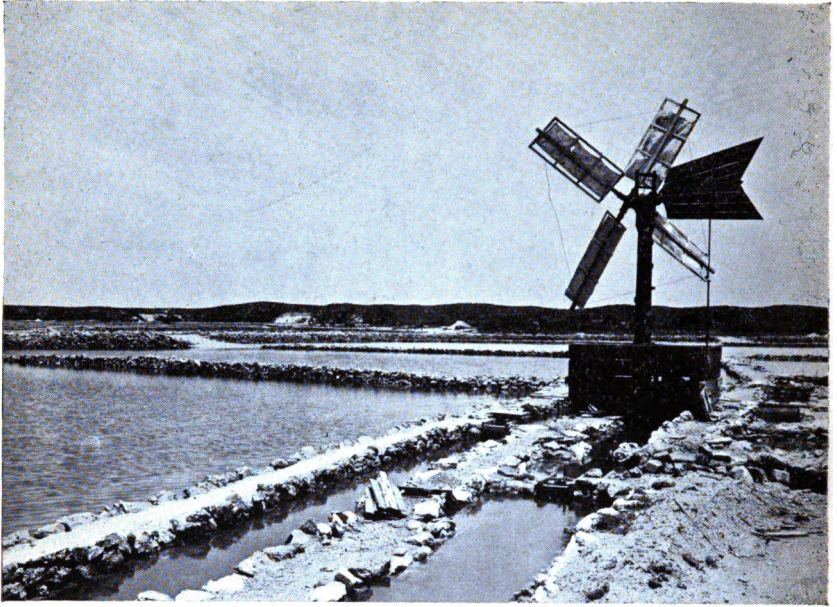
CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN BASE AT GRAND TURK



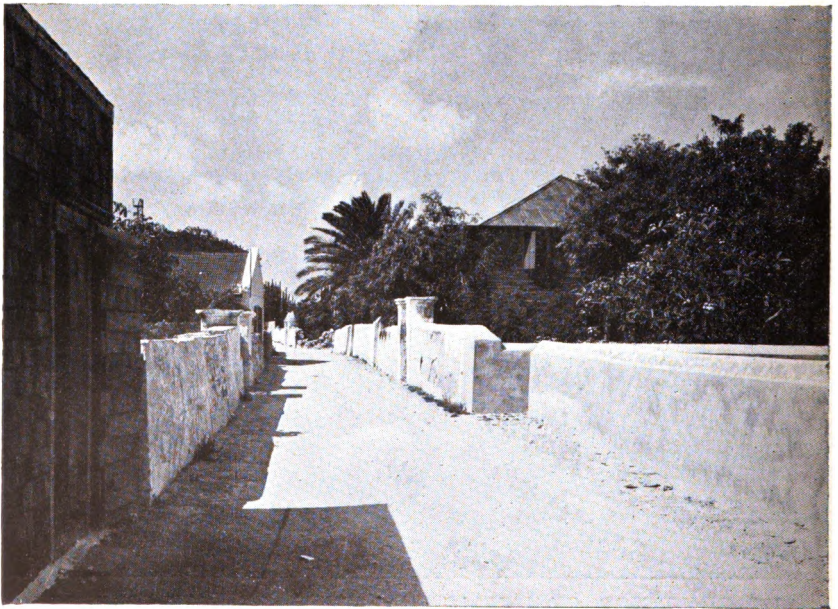
ARRIVAL OF ENGINEERS IN APRIL, 1952



THE GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA INSPECTING EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT



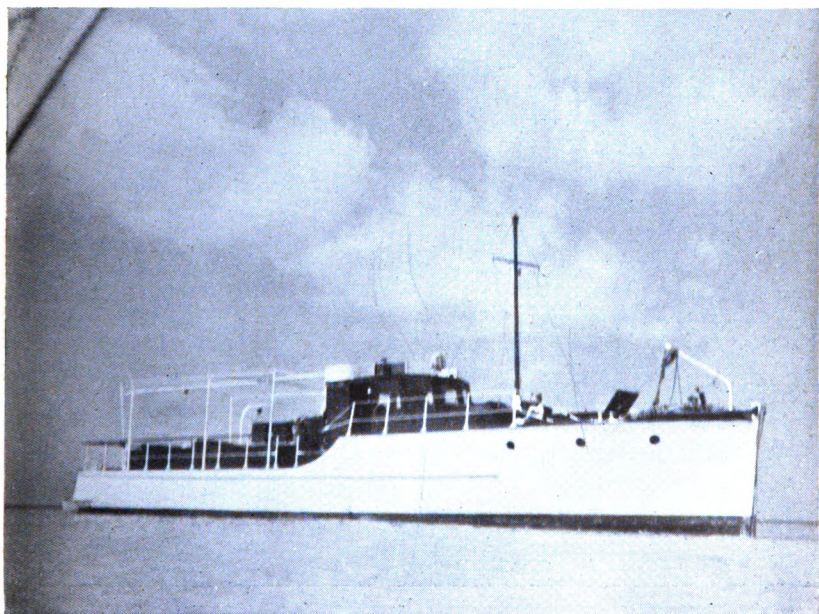
SALT PONDS AT SALT CAY



A QUIET CORNER, DUKE STREET, GRAND TURK



SCHOOL AT COCKBURN HARBOUR, SOUTH CAICOS



THE NEW GOVERNMENT LAUNCH *Beta Cygni*



PARISH CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, GRAND TURK, BUILT IN 1824

In an endeavour to raise the standard of teaching, refresher courses for all teachers were held at Grand Turk in 1951 and 1952, each of one month's duration. Owing to the low salaries offered, which are all that can be afforded, the settlements have to rely on local talent for teachers, and over 90 per cent of the staff are women. There is little prospect of attracting outside staff, except perhaps for the Grand Turk school.

During the period under review this school continued to operate in two distinct parts, the Senior School and the Junior School. The Senior School, which at one time had a fine record of academic achievement, was passing through a period of transition, and results in the Jamaica Local and the Cambridge Junior Examinations were disappointing. The school was under the direction of a Jamaican headmaster on a two-year contract, which has now expired.

The efforts of the Education Officer were mainly directed towards the primary schools of the out-islands, where considerable advances in organisation, teaching and in the morale of the teachers can be recorded. One teacher was sent to Jamiaca for training in 1951 and two in 1952.

There are 12 elementary schools and one senior school serving the six inhabited islands. Education of children between the ages of seven and 14 is compulsory at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but the scattered nature of the settlements precludes such enforcement in the Caicos Islands. Approximately 1,000 names were enrolled in 1952, and the average attendance was 800. Children enter the senior school at 11, and if they stay after 14 may be required to pay fees. Otherwise education is free.

The grant paid to the Board of Education from Government funds was £4,000 in 1951-52 and £4,765 in 1952-53. Approximately 90 per cent of these sums was paid in teachers' salaries, towards which a Colonial Development and Welfare grant under Scheme D1126 for the Reorganisation of the Educational System provided contributions of £600 and £400 respectively, £1,000 and £800 having been contributed during the years 1949 and 1950. Expenditure under this scheme also included £1,000 and £3,000 on school buildings and equipment during 1951 and 1952.

No facilities exist for technical or adult education. Most of the population is literate, and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk, with six sub-libraries at other centres.

A notable event of 1952 was the formation of the first Boy Scout troop in the Dependency, under the initiative and guidance of the Headmaster of the Senior School.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The general health of the islands is good, and the number of inhabitants who have overrun their allotted span of three score years and ten is remarkable. This despite the fact that many aspects of public health have been for many years, and are still, badly neglected. Proper

facilities for sanitation and the disposal of garbage are lacking in most centres and the number of persons drinking untreated water is very large. Despite these defects the number of cases of serious illness is very low and there have been no outbreaks of typhoid, amoebic dysentery or other water-borne diseases. The major cause of illness is malnutrition.

Only two new cases of tuberculosis were found in 1952. There is a lingering centre of leprosy at Lorimers, a small settlement on Middle Caicos, where a total of three active cases have now been proved. The difficulties of removing these cases to Jamaica have so far proved insuperable.

Attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly at Grand Turk was good. The incidence of toxæmias of pregnancy was low, there being no eclamptic cases during 1952. Attendances totalled 99 with 72 deliveries. Deliveries are done by the clinic nurse in the home, the Medical Officer being called only in difficult cases. In addition to the facilities at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, there is a maternity clinic at Bottle Creek on North Caicos with six beds where mothers are encouraged to enter the clinic for their deliveries. There are Government-paid midwives at Salt Cay, Lorimers and Blue Hills also. The infant mortality rate continues its downward trend.

The new 16-bed hospital at Grand Turk was completed in 1952 as was the clinic at Cockburn Harbour. These two buildings were the major features of a Colonial Development and Welfare Public Health Scheme, costing over £36,000; £22,000 was spent, on the Grand Turk Hospital, which must be one of the best equipped small hospitals in the West Indies. The continuing depression and consequent fall in Government revenues prevented the opening of this hospital in 1952 on account of expense, but fortunately the generous agreement of the Jamaica Government in March, 1953, to pay half the salaries of all trained staff made the opening possible, and the new buildings are now in use.

The medical staff consists of two Medical Officers seconded for periods of one year from Jamaica, and stationed at Grand Turk and at Cockburn Harbour; a matron and two trained nurses at the Grand Turk Hospital and a trained nurse for dispensary and midwifery work at Grand Turk. There are also a Sanitary Inspector, the midwives mentioned above and, to assist the Medical Officer at South Caicos, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. Trained staff is mostly recruited in Jamaica; appointment to the Dependency is unpopular on account of the lack of social amenities and difficulties of supply.

Government expenditure on medical services was £7,468 in 1951-52 and £7,528 in 1952-53 (revised estimates). To this should be added approximately £1,200, in each case, being the contribution of the Jamaica Government of half the salaries of the Medical Officers. Expenditure under the Colonial Development and Welfare Health Scheme was £18,840 in 1951-52 and £5,806 in 1952-53.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Two cinemas, equipped by the British Council and from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, operate regularly in the school buildings at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, and received a subsidy of £100 from the Government during 1951 and 1952. The subsidy has now been reduced and every effort is being made to make these projects financially self-supporting.

The various churches and the friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good work amongst their own members in cases of distress. The Pauper Relief Committee administers aid from Government funds in necessitous cases, at a cost of some £1,100 per annum.

There is no Government insurance against old age or unemployment, but it is the custom for relief work to be provided when unemployment is severe. Considerable sums were spent on work of this kind in the second half of 1951.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Ten ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board in 1951 and in 1952 by the Governor of Jamaica :

1951

- No. 1. The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Land Acquisition (Adoption) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The General Revenue Appropriation (1951-52) Ordinance.
- No. 5. The Recording of Deeds (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 6. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 7. The Tax Collection (Postponement) Ordinance.
- No. 8. The Supplementary Appropriation (1947-48) Ordinance.
- No. 9. The Liquor Licence (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 10. The Revised Edition of Laws Ordinance.

1952

- No. 1. The Fisheries Export Duties Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Registration of Business Names Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Tax Collection (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax Ordinance.
- No. 5. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 6. The Export Duties (Spirits) (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 7. The Pilotage and Harbour (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 8. The Liquor Licence Ordinance.
- No. 9. The Christopher Forbes Lightbourne Adams and Walter Ebenezer Bassett (Validation of Acts and Indemnity) Ordinance.
- No. 10. The General Revenue Appropriation (1952-53) Ordinance.

The Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance gave legal effect to one of the most far-reaching measures ever considered by the local Legislature. Under its provisions all the private owners of salt ponds and other equipment used in the making or shipping of salt sold their holdings to a Government-controlled limited liability company known as the Turks Islands Salt Company for the sum of £100,000, of which approximately one-third was paid in cash and two-thirds in cumulative preference shares. The effects of this measure were felt far beyond the confines of the salt industry, as many of the owners were small men who worked their own ponds or equipment in addition to selling their labour to the larger proprietors. With the departure of many of the latter a considerably increased burden of responsibility for provision of employment has devolved upon the Government.

The first six ordinances of 1952 were financial measures designed to increase government revenue and achieve a balanced budget. The most controversial of these was the Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax Ordinance over which, for the first time for many years, there was a division between the official and unofficial members of the Legislative Board. The first draft of the bill was replaced by a second which simplified arrangements for collection, and this was accepted. The ordinance provides for a surcharge of 2½ per cent and 5 per cent on all trade goods imported into the Dependency which is to be borne by the traders and not passed on to the consumers. It is difficult to enforce this second provision, and the legislation, which was passed for one year only, although it was renewed in 1953, is unlikely to be permanent.

The Liquor Licence Ordinance, 1952, replaced all previous legislation on this subject, which, *inter alia*, permitted the opening of licenced premises only from sunrise to sunset and gave the Police no powers of search.

The revised edition of laws was eventually completed towards the end of 1952 and came into force on 1st January, 1953. This will prove a great convenience, but much remains to be done in bringing the legislation of the Dependency more in line with present day conditions.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend its legislation to the Dependency.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate, normally a Deputy Clerk of the Courts seconded from Jamaica for a three-year term. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary enquiry is taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 31 in the Dependency. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

POLICE

Regular police, some of whom have been trained in Jamaica, are stationed at Grand Turk (six), Cockburn Harbour (three) and Salt Cay (one). The force is commanded by a sergeant and supervised by the Inspector of Police. This office was held by the Assistant Commissioner until his departure in December, 1952, when it reverted to the Commissioner. In the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable at each of the six larger settlements.

Crime statistics for 1951 and 1952 were as follows :

	1951	1952
Cases reported or known to Police	282	324
Cases brought to Court	248	238
No. of persons proceeded against	<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> Male 185 Female 98 </div> </div>	148
		99
Persons arrested	81	53
Persons summonsed	202	194
No. convicted	206	195
No. imprisoned	9	20
No. whipped	4	—
No. fined	159	146
No. bound over	34	29
Offences against the peace	136	116
Offences against the person	28	24
Offences against property	19	29
Other offences	23	26

PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced for a longer term are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. Early in 1952 a staff of six, one jailer, three warders, a matron and a cook ministered to five prisoners. In the economy campaign of mid-1952 the staff was reduced to three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population continues in the neighbourhood of six. There are no juvenile delinquents and female prisoners are rare.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is Chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects the prison and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the Medical Officer. The health of prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light, generated from windchargers, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at 1d. for four gallons. There are eighteen of these tanks with a total capacity of 939,000 gallons, as follows :

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	10	671,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	4	192,000
Kew	1	40,000
Total	18	939,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation. The storage capacity at Grand Turk, although further increased during 1951, was severely strained by the temporary influx of population in connection with the construction of the American Base, and at the time of writing (March, 1953) water rationing has been in force for some weeks and the situation is critical. As a consequence of the serious drought in 1950 a plant for distilling

sea-water was purchased and installed early in 1951. It has not so far been used as the cost of producing fresh water by this means is expected to be about 2d. per gallon. This, however, would probably be cheaper than bringing water from the Dominican Republic or Guantanamo Bay, which was necessary in June, 1950.

The small Public Works Department comprised, during the period under review, a Jamaican building supervisor and a mechanical superintendent, but the two posts have now been merged into one on the return of the former to Jamaica on completion of his contract. Owing to financial stringency, public works and even maintenance have been reduced to a minimum. The Grand Turk Hospital and Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay clinics were completed in 1952, as were school buildings at Salt Cay and Blue Hills. Further improvements must now await the return of Government solvency.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, out of New York, call at Grand Turk whenever a cargo of 50 tons is booked, which is approximately every three months. Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage, but seldom call. They did so three times in the two years under review. Even when a call is made, freight rates to Jamaica are some 10 per cent higher than those charged by the Dutch company. There are also very occasional direct shipments from the United Kingdom by Royal Mail steamers.

M.V. Kirksons, a vessel of 300 tons capacity, has for some years been under contract with the Turks Islands Government, and plies regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk at slightly less than monthly intervals, bringing in mail and the bulk of supplies, and taking out salt.

There are three ports of entry, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than 15 feet must anchor at a short distance from the shore.

In 1952 there were 119 vessels registered in the Dependency totalling 1,655 tons. Most of these were small locally built sloops of from five to 15 tons.

AIR SERVICES

The fortnightly airmail and passenger service operated from Ciudad Trujillo by the *Compania Dominicana de Avacion (C.D.A.)* was discontinued towards the end of 1951 on grounds of expense, and for some months the Dependency was without an airmail service. With the improved air communications in the opposite direction which

resulted from the establishment of the American Base, it was possible to make arrangements for a weekly air service to Nassau which came into operation in August, 1952.

During the interim period a number of special charter flights from Kingston were operated by Cava Airlines to bring in passengers and fresh supplies. The Airlines also transport frozen lobsters from South Caicos to Miami. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways of Jamaica began to make monthly flights from Kingston to Grand Turk with a 22-seater amphibian.

POSTAL SERVICES

Airmail to and from Europe, the United States and Jamaica is now routed via Nassau, and all surface mail through Jamaica. The Post Office dealt with about 205,000 postal articles in 1952.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless Limited, provides a twice-daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are also broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

The Government-operated telephone service at Grand Turk now has 45 connections.

ROADS

Roads in the major settlements, with the exception of Grand Turk, have been maintained in good condition. In Grand Turk the traditional method of road-making, i.e. salt scale surface on lime rock foundation, proved unable to stand up to the heavy traffic of the Americans, and by the end of the year the roads were in bad condition. Under the Turks and Caicos Agreement the American authorities will make the damage good when construction of the Base has been completed.

There are no roads or motor vehicles in the Caicos Islands. Most travelling in the Dependency is by sailing boat between the islands.

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

No newspapers or periodicals are published in the Dependency. Cable and Wireless Ltd. puts out a daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There are two cinemas which operate in school buildings at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour. Further details are given on page 19.

There are no broadcasting or Government information services.

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° North latitude and 71° and 72°30' West longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group has ever been made. Gradual filling in of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited cays, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank, as described by Dr. H. H. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938), is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the Bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages, most of them but a few hundred yards in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called Blue Hills locally) and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers on which the sea breaks heavily, making it difficult to navigate. The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." The inner or bank coast

of the islands is usually mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water ; the second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank". This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (*Annelida Mollusca* and *Crustacea*). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide.

At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier of reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° minimum to 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December through March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches at Grand Turk, appears to have declined. The average at Grand Turk for the five years ending 1952 was 23.33 inches, with 17.38 inches in 1950, 36.29 inches in 1951 and 21.28 inches in 1952.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour.

Chapter 2: History

The Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall but this theory has now been generally discredited. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though artefacts of a primitive culture have been found in a cave on Middle Caicos. No European occupation was attempted until 1687, when a party of Bermudians

came regularly about March and remained until around November, when the salt raking season was over. In 1770 they were expelled by the Spaniards, but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity with occasional interruptions from further Spanish attacks. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French from Haiti. In 1766, an agent, one Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." This marked the beginning of a year-round occupation.

By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of Southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remain.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered under the Governor of Jamaica by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track." During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage inflicted by the hurricane of 1945 and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but such success as there was was short-lived. In 1943, however, arrangements were made for the motor vessel *Kirksons*, of Cayman Islands registry, to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk.

The first cable was landed at 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Ltd. who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with

Cable and Wireless Ltd., are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Ltd. established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service with Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December, 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The last previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947, but in 1951, as a result of an agreement between the Imperial Government and the United States, a site was selected on Grand Turk for a United States Air Force Base for the purpose of observing experimental guided missile flights. Meanwhile, a small airstrip for light aircraft had been constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949 but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the Dependency.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to the Dependency by a Minister of the Crown though the islands had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) having visited Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban* in which he was serving as a lieutenant.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alice accompanied by the Earl of Athlone called at Grand Turk in the S.S. *Cavina* on 11th February, 1950, on her way to Jamaica to be installed as Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every freeman present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. On 5th March, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by the Acting Governor of Jamaica, and on 9th April, 1951, the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received the exclusive right to export salt from the Dependency. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. C. E. Wool-Lewis, O.B.E., left the islands in July, 1951, after a five-year tenure of office, and Mr. T. W. Willis, M.B.E., Treasurer, acted as Commissioner until the arrival of Mr. P. Bleackley, M.B.E., in April, 1952.

The laws of the Dependency are passed by the Legislative Board, which consists of the Commissioner as Chairman, three official and four unofficial members, nominated by the Governor of Jamaica. Subject to the assent of the Governor, the Board exercises full legislative and budgetary powers, but it is the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before it is introduced. Jamaica legislation may also be made applicable in the Dependency.

An executive committee of the Board, consisting of two official and two unofficial members, meets as required to advise the Commissioner on any matters he may wish to refer to it.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk. The Caicos Islands are under the supervision of a District Commissioner stationed at Cockburn Harbour. These islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar ; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos ; and Blue Hills (Providenciales). Three of these Boards were elected in 1952 for the first time, and given minor financial responsibilities. It is hoped to increase these in future years.

There is a Government Officer at Salt Cay.

In June, 1952, the Commissioner visited all settlements in the Dependency, and subsequently revisited the larger centres. The Government launch *President Forth* caught fire and sank, fortunately without loss of life, in the middle of the Turks Islands Passage in February, 1952, and subsequent travel was undertaken in open motor boats. A new launch the *Beta Cygni*, of 65 feet with twin diesel engines, was acquired in England later in the year, but did not arrive in the Dependency until January, 1953.

A number of visits were made by officials to Jamaica, and Sir Hugh Foot, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor of Jamaica, visited the Dependency in January, 1952, and again in June in company with General Richardson, commanding the Air Force Missile Test Centre at Patrick, Florida.

APPENDIX

Members of the Legislative Board :

OFFICIAL

- Commissioner* : { C. E. Wool-Lewis, O.B.E. until July, 1951.
 T. W. Willis, M.B.E. (Acting) until April, 1952.
 P. Bleackley, M.B.E. from April, 1952.
- Treasurer* : { T. W. Willis, M.B.E. until July, 1951.
 E. T. Wood from July, 1951.
 J. W. Astwood, District Commissioner, Caicos.

UNOFFICIAL

- E. G. Ewing until September, 1952.
 W. R. Tatem.
 F. C. Grant.
 J. N. Morgan.
 G. E. M. Ewing from September, 1952.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

- BROWN, DR. H. H. *Survey of Sponge Ground, Jamaica*, Government Printer, 1938.
- Financial and Economic Position : Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.* London, Crown Agents 1937, for the Government of Jamaica.
- PUSEY, REV. J. H. *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands.* Kingston Colonial Publishers Co. Ltd. (out of print).
- TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricanes of 1926 and 1928.* London, Waterlow, 1928, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- WALTON-SMITH, F. G. *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida.* Caribbean Commission Fishery Series, No. 3. Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry.* Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.
- WATKINS, F. H. *Turks and Caicos Islands ; Report on the Salt Industry.* Cd. 4326, 1908.

APPENDIX

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES INITIATED OR IN PROGRESS DURING THE YEARS 1951 AND 1952

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31/12/52	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D13B(aa)	Sports Equipment	150	97	
D658	Employment of a Building Super- visor for a period of five years (Expires May 30th, 1951) .	2,555	2,422	
D832	Contribution of £600 per annum for five years toward the salary of the Commissioner during the ap- pointment of an Assistant Com- missioner (Expires April 14th, 1953)	3,000	2,794	
D967	Erection and operation for a period of five years of an unat- tended light at Great Sand Cay : Capital	4,150	4,059	877
	Recurrent	500	300	198
D1126	The Reorganisation of the Edu- cational System of the Turks and Caicos Islands	21,310	9,676*	
	* Local Grant to Board of Edu- cation Fund 1951/52—£4,000 1952/53—£4,765			
D1162 & A	Provision for the cost of a six- year course at the Faculty of Medicine of the University Col- lege of the West Indies for a Can- didate (Mr. T. E. Been) from the Turks and Caicos Islands .	1,865	1,301	465
D1360 & A	The Reorganisation and Improve- ment of the Public Health Sys- tem of the Turks and Caicos Islands including the detention of Lepers D1360 £34,750 D1360A £5,450 £40,200			
	Capital	30,350	26,804	9,036†
	Recurrent	9,850	2,011	
	† Subject to adjustment on ap- proval of excesses being offset by savings on certain items.			

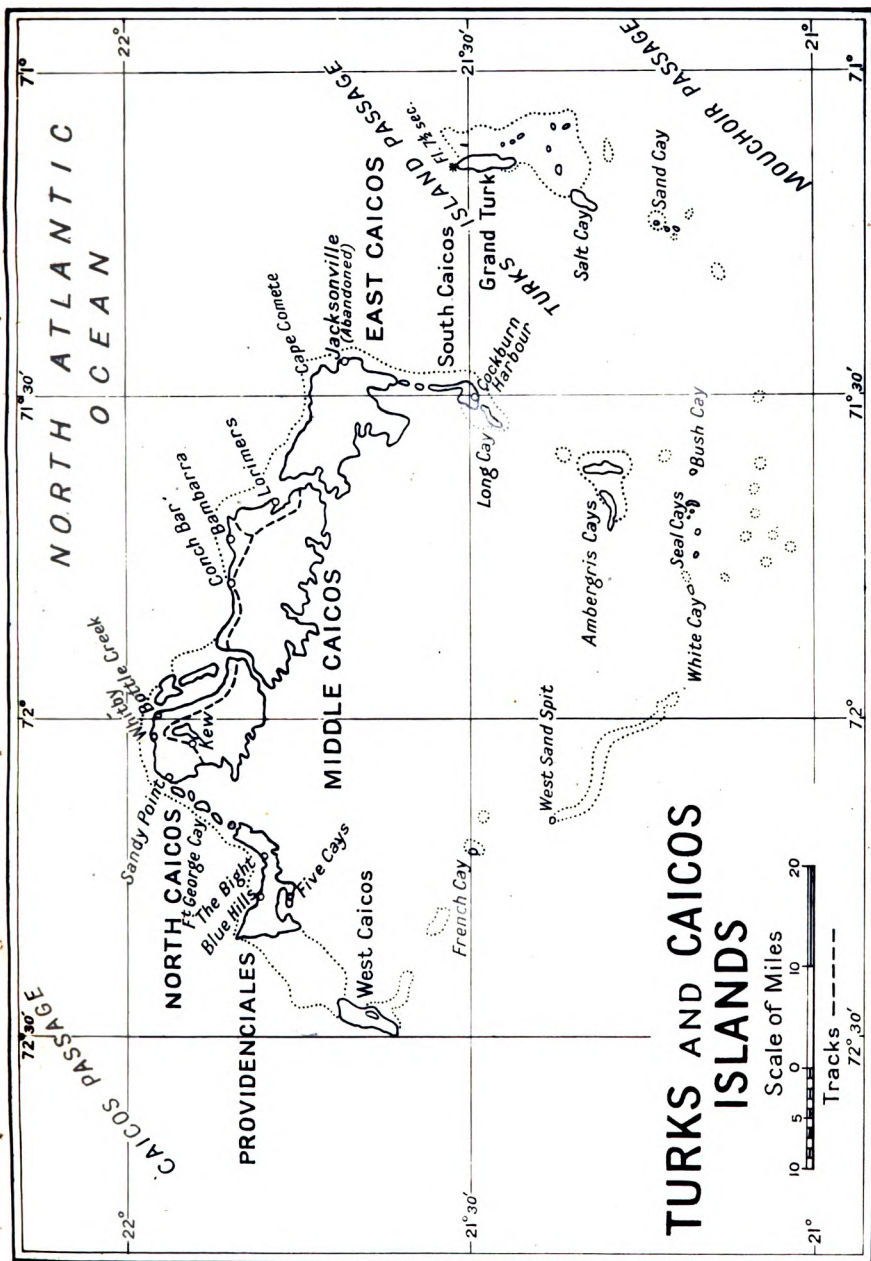
APPENDIX—continued.

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31/12/52	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D1452	The Improvement of Water Storage Facilities in the Dependency	4,000	3,318	
D1474	The Provision of additional Clerical Assistance to deal with the increased work due to the Development Programme	1,210	475	423
D1585	Purchasing and Installation of reconditioned Distilling Plant	5,000	4,635	
D1670	Improved Wireless Telephone Communication between the main Settlements of the Dependency (Total cost £1,225)	875		
D1695	Agricultural Development	5,600	473	
		90,415	58,365	10,999
		<i>Approved Loan</i>		
D1575	Loan—Interest free in the first instance (invested in 50,000 Ordinary shares of the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited)	50,000	50,000	
	Total	140,415	108,365	10,999

Note : Scheme D13B(u) approved 3rd March, 1945, for the construction of two slaughter houses, and revised 21st October, 1950, for the construction of a slaughter house at Cockburn Harbour and the rebuilding of one at Grand Turk at a cost not exceeding £500 for both works, has not yet been implemented.

Under West Indies Training Scheme D1108(75) 1950-51 administered by the Colonial Office, a total of £656 was spent on a student : Mr. C. S. Jones of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the original grant being £550 and supplementary £106.

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1953-1954



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COLONIAL REPORTS

**Turks and Caicos
Islands
1953 & 1954**

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PART I

Review of 1953 and 1954

THE years 1953-1954 have seen continued change in the island of Grand Turk resulting from the establishment of the American military bases. The Guided Missile Observer Station was completed in 1953, and construction of the Naval Facility at the north end of the island, begun in mid-1954, was nearing completion by the end of the year. The presence of relatively large numbers of American servicemen and civilians has had considerable effect on a previously isolated community, but the effect on the economy of the Dependency has not yet been as beneficial as was expected. The Guided Missile Base, which was constructed by a civilian contractor employing local labour, brought a good deal of money and full employment to the island for a period of some twelve months. But this then shut down completely and the residuary employment at the Base was reduced to a score of persons, including women and boys. The Naval Facility was constructed almost entirely by a U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, although after representations had been made, between twenty and thirty local men were employed.

Activity in the salt industry continued at a low ebb during this period, salt exports being about 20 per cent of the capacity of the industry. These factors, coinciding with the return of a number of men from overseas employment, brought about a severe economic depression during 1954. The hardship in the salt islands was to some extent alleviated by the provision of Colonial Development and Welfare assistance to finance road construction and to enable salt production to continue. A grant of £16,520 was provided for the roads scheme and £9,545 for various uses in connection with the salt company, of which £5,900 was for improvements to the salt ponds. In addition a C.D. & W. loan of £5,000 was advanced to the Government for investment in the Company. One result of this assistance has been to stem the onset of unemployment and to give all *bona fide* unemployed persons two, three or four days work a week according to the size of their families. The long-term position, however, remains unsatisfactory and unpromising although there are certain gleams of hope on the horizon of the salt industry, of which mention will be made later in this report.

As a result of the decline in local earnings Government revenue has fallen to a lower level than at one time seemed likely, and although the drain on Government resources mentioned in the last report was successfully stemmed and, apart from relief work expenditure, an over-all balance has been achieved during the past three years, the Government is no nearer to balancing its recurrent expenditure with recurrent revenue than it was before the arrival of the Americans in 1952. The prospect of a large section of the community having to depend on relief employment not only demoralises the labour force

but also precludes any prospect of improved social services being financed from local resources.

On the other hand the past two years have seen a great increase in social welfare activities which have been directed mainly towards the children and young people of the salt islands. A branch of the Child Welfare Association, established in July, 1953, has organised regular Baby Clinics on Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, and has operated a government milk scheme for the distribution of subsidised milk to all young children. The Boy Scout movement, which began its activities in late 1952, has increased greatly in numbers and scope and a Girl Guide Company was formed in Grand Turk in 1954. Branches of the Jamaica Federation of Women have also expanded their activities. In addition to this, the Government was able to take advantage of the offer of free tinned milk from the United Kingdom Government to supply all school children throughout the Dependency with a glass of milk a day for six months.

The year 1953 also saw a step forward in the political sphere when elections, based on adult suffrage, were held for the unofficial seats on the Legislative Board. These elections took place in an orderly and efficient manner and resulted in the return of three of the four previously nominated members. In 1954 two political parties were formed, the Turks Islands Democratic Party in Grand Turk and the Caicos Progressive Party in South Caicos. Proposals for increasing the unofficial membership of the Legislative Board in order to allow representation to the Lower Caicos Islands, where more than half the population live, were approved by the Jamaica Legislature early in 1955 and this will create an unofficial majority on the Board for the first time.

Conditions in the Caicos Islands have continued to improve during the years under review. The production of sisal has been a useful money earner, although the quality of the fibre remains low. The conch and lobster fisheries have continued to bring in considerable sums of money and the settlements are now in the process of an economic, social and political awakening. The acquisition of a reliable government launch has made it possible to give the settlements more attention than they had received for some years.

During most of the period under review the Dependency enjoyed a weekly airmail service with Nassau, by courtesy of the U.S. Air Force, but an alteration in schedules brought this to an end in November, 1954, and no satisfactory substitute has yet been found. Communications remain a major handicap in the development of local trade and commerce.

It seems clear that rigorous economic conditions must remain the lot of the Salt Islands unless the salt industry can be re-established. A recent investigation into the prospects of the industry, of which details are given later in this report, has led to the conclusion that such re-establishment can only come about if greater attention is given to marketing its product and the present level of sales increased. Given a steady demand and some additional capital the industry could still carry on.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the Dependency at the time of the last census in 1943 was 6,138 made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent	122

The number of females exceeded the number of males by 19.9 per cent. This excess has, if anything, increased during the intervening years and it is estimated that at any given time up to 50 per cent of the adult male population are absent seeking their livelihood abroad. This is particularly noticeable in the Caicos Islands where the ratio of women to men at any public function is frequently more than three to one. The number of locally born persons of European descent has continued to decline, but since the establishment of the United States military bases there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements is roughly estimated to be:

Grand Turk	1,800
Salt Cay	350
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	600
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	1,400
Kew (North Caicos)	400
Blue Hills (Providenciales)	800

Although the birth rate is far in excess of the death rate the drain of emigration tends to leave the total population virtually unchanged. The births and deaths registered during the last eight years were as follows:

	<i>Number of births</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1000</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1000</i>
1947	220	82	33.8	12.6
1948	195	88	30.0	13.5
1949	227	73	34.9	11.2
1950	240	80	36.9	12.3
1951	239	71	36.8	10.9
1952	243	79	37.4	12.1
1953	206	92	31.7	14.1
1954	238	74	36.6	11.4

These rates are based on an estimated total population of 6,500.

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1953 and 1954 was 41 and 35 respectively.

Twenty-five marriages were registered in 1953 and 26 in 1954.
Immigration figures were:

	1953	1954
Entered . . .	525	297
Departed . . .	565	397

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

Employment in the salt industry continued to decline steadily as the Turks Islands Salt Company failed to dispose of any appreciable quantities of its large stocks of salt, and its financial position became increasingly stringent. Salt work shut down completely at Grand Turk and continued on a care and maintenance basis only at South Caicos.

Full employment in the construction of the United States Guided Missile Observer Station on Grand Turk continued for the first few months of 1953 and then ceased completely. Four months of road work, made necessary by the heavy traffic to and from the station, and paid for by the United States Authorities, provided some relief from the population at the end of 1953.

To provide further relief, the Turks Islands Government in the spring of 1954 invested the greater part of its reserve fund in the Turks Islands Salt Company, to provide work in raking salt and in improving the salt ponds. In the autumn the acute depression was to some extent alleviated by the provision of Colonial Development and Welfare assistance to start new work on the road system. This work, which provides *bona fide* labourers with two, three or four days a week according to the size of their families, still continues. The wages paid for this work, as for unskilled work in the salt industry, are 9s. per day.

Lobster and conch fishing continued to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands, but here as elsewhere in the Dependency a large number of adult males are absent working in the salt industry at Inagua and the lumber industry at Abaco, Grand Bahama.

Employment on steamers, which has always been such a useful outlet in the past, practically ceased in 1953 when the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company began to get crews for their ships entirely from Holland. A number of men, previously employed by this company afloat or in Curaçao, returned to Grand Turk in 1953 to swell the numbers of the unemployed.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wage rates in the salt industry and for unskilled work on roads etc. were raised in 1953 from 8s. to 9s. for an eight hour day. Other rates remained much as before, namely:

Carpenters, masons etc.	. . .	15s. per day
Truck drivers, Mechanics	. . .	12s. to 15s. per day
Domestic servants, females	. . .	20s. to 80s. per month (usually with rations)

OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION 7

The scale of wages paid for work on the American military bases, fixed by agreement between the local Government and the United States Authorities, was raised during 1953 and is now as follows:

	<i>per hour</i>
Unskilled labour	2s. 3d.
Stevedores	2s. 6d.
Semi-skilled artisans	2s. 9d.
Skilled artisans	3s. 6d.

Overtime rates are paid at time and a half for work over eight hours, on Sundays and on public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The steep rise in the cost of living in 1952, which followed the abolition of food subsidies, levelled off in 1953 and there was no significant increase in the cost of staple foods during the past two years. The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1954</i>
Beef, pickled	lb.	1s. 3d.	1s. 10d.	2s. 10d.	2s. 10d.
Beans, red kidney	qt.	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d.	3s.	2s. 6d.
Corn	qt.	5d.	6d.	1s.	1s.
Cabbage	lb.	6d.	8d.	1s.	1s.
Cornmeal	lb.	2½d.	5d.	6½d.	6½d.
Condensed Milk	14 oz.	9d.	10½d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
Flour	lb.	5d.	5½d.	6½d.	6½d.
Lard	lb.	1s. 6d.	1s. 4½d.	1s. 9d.	1s. 11d.
Margarine	lb.	1s. 5d.	1s. 5d.	2s. 5d.	2s. 3d.
Meat, Jamaican	lb.	—	2s.	2s. 9d.	2s. 9d.
Onions	lb.	6d.	6d.	1s.	1s.
Oranges	doz.	9d.	1s.	1s. 6d.	2s.
Plantains	each	1½d.	2½d.	3d.	3d.
Pork, pickled	lb.	1s. 3d.	1s. 5d.	2s.	2s.
Potatoes, Irish	lb.	4½d.	4½d.	7½d.	6d.
Potatoes, sweet	lb.	3d.	4d.	7d.	5d.
Powdered Milk	lb.	4s.	4s. 10d.	5s. 5d.	5s. 10d.
Rice	qt.	1s.	1s. 1d.	1s. 8d.	1s.
Sugar (granulated)	lb.	6d.	7d.	7d.	8½d.

Civil Service salaries were raised on 1st April, 1953, increases averaging between 15 per cent and 20 per cent.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are two trade unions in the Dependency, the Turks Islands Workers Union in Grand Turk and the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour. Neither of these unions has been active during the past two years and neither fulfills the legal requirements of registration.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

The financial crisis of 1951 referred to in the last report, and the series of heavy budget deficits, were brought to an end in 1953 as a result of the increased revenue accruing from the taxation measures passed in 1952 and by strict economy in government expenditure. This economy has continued throughout the period under review but a steady increase in expenditure has been unavoidable as a result of the increased cost of living and consequent rise of wages and salaries. Budget surpluses of £4,038, £9,656 and £1,933 (estimated) were achieved during the financial years ending in 1953, 1954 and 1955 respectively. On the other hand the Dependency was forced to dispose of its reserve fund in 1954 in order to finance relief work in the salt industry, and the balance of the government unallocated stores was also disposed of in the same year. The estimated deficit on the current account with the Jamaica Government on 1st April, 1955, was £22,309.

There is no authorised public debt, but, in addition to the above deficit, an advance of £38,500 from the Jamaica Treasury is used to finance the trading operations of the Turks Islands Importers Ltd. In April, 1951, the Dependency received an interest-free Colonial Development and Welfare loan of £50,000 for investment in the Turks Islands Salt Company, and a further loan of £5,000 for the same purpose was received in December 1954.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four years were as follows:

	REVENUE			
	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	£	£	£	£
Customs	18,939	35,185	30,900	31,450
Salt Royalty	3,249	1,855	1,860	1,600
Port Dues	627	691	620	650
Licences and other Internal Revenue	363	1,001	920	900
Fees of Court and Office	635	794	463	597
Departmental Revenue	161	397	546	430
Reimbursements	2,594	2,237	4,420	5,271
Post Office	3,030	5,272	6,065	4,890
Interest	593	518	375	320
Miscellaneous	10,013	4,459	1,873	3,385
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	40,204	52,409	48,072	49,493
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	23,903	11,396	17,831	23,247
Investments	56,000			10,000
Industries		10,173	7,200	11,500
Insurance—Motor Launch “President Forth”		2,970		
Land Sales	—	—	—	—
Deficit	20,151	—	—	—
TOTAL REVENUE	140,258	76,948	73,103	94,240

* Revised estimates.

EXPENDITURE

	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	(actual)	(actual)	(Revised Ests.)	(Revised Ests.)
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,151	3,387	2,404	3,259
Commissioner's Department	7,672	6,529	8,731	7,929
Treasury and Customs	4,721	3,944	4,623	5,100
Judicial Department	1,124	3,630	1,483	1,780
Police Department	2,844	2,973	3,622	4,051
Prison Department	1,327	1,279	1,335	1,444
Medical Department	6,347	6,061	7,738	10,739
Paupers and Lunatics	1,275	1,262	1,030	1,020
Education	4,000	4,765	5,500	6,000
Miscellaneous	5,651	5,475	6,596	11,552
Post Office	1,637	1,935	2,439	2,572
Lighthouses	698	792	987	932
Savings Bank	372	383	392	392
Food Control Department	1,513	1,431	134	—
Public Works Department	2,154	2,025	1,471	1,562
Public Works Recurrent	4,407	2,349	3,870	3,520
TOTAL				
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	46,893	48,227	52,355	61,852
Public Works Extraordinary	503	8,295*	1,842	1,910
Industries	4,869	5,127	5,110	6,600
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	28,863	12,929	3,820	21,088
Repayment of Instalment Loan on Sisal Farms	800	—	—	—
Land Purchases	39	403	920	13
Salt Industry	1,349	—	—	—
Unallocated Stores	909	2,064cr	600cr	400cr
Investments	56,000	—	—	700
Relief Works	—	—	—	544
Surplus	—	4,038	9,656	1,933
Cost of Living Allowance	33	—	—	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	140,258	76,948	73,103	94,240

* Includes purchase of new Launch.

The very considerable increase in customs revenue in 1952-53 which followed the prosperity brought by the construction of the U.S. Air Force Base was not maintained, and revenue from this source now appears steady in the neighbourhood of £30,000 per annum. The yield from salt royalty remains low and stamp sales show no sign of returning to their pre-1951 levels.

No direct taxation is levied in the Dependency, there being neither poll, income, nor property tax. The falling off of revenue from the salt industry has been offset to some extent by the profits made by the Government in handling the Caicos sisal crop.

Increased financial assistance has been received from the Jamaica Government during the past two years in the form of a contribution of half the salary of all trained medical personnel. A contribution of similar size from Colonial Development and Welfare funds towards recurrent costs of public health and other services will come to an end in 1956. Even with the strictest economy it is difficult to see how a small population of some 6,500 people, scattered over 6 different islands, can expect to find the where-with-all from their own resources to maintain public and social services adequate to present-day standards.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaica Notes	40,000
Jamaica Nickel	10
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom cupro-nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the Dependency. The Government Savings Bank held on 31st December, 1954, a total of £107,086 in 1,847 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £36,630 and £44,439 respectively during the year.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The value of imports and exports during the last six years was as follows:

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	102,524	101,630	127,125	133,041	125,239	134,959
Exports	70,772	35,296	56,972	35,905	33,743	48,086

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past six years:

	United Kingdom	Other parts of the Commonwealth	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1949 .	36,742	50,529	15,253	102,524
1950 .	32,437	40,509	28,684	101,630
1951 .	27,330	65,961	33,834	127,125
1952 .	19,784	65,497	47,760	133,041
1953 .	23,901	63,997	37,341	125,239
1954 .	26,569	70,126	38,264	134,959

The classified summary of imports for the years 1951-54 is:

	1951	1952	1953	1954
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco	81,850	86,202	79,240	94,058
Raw materials	9,351	8,043	6,548	7,347
Manufactured articles	32,986	36,367	37,620	33,026
Unclassified	2,938	2,429	1,831	528

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin:

	1951	<i>Per Cent</i>		1954
		1952	1953	
Food, drink and tobacco	75	60	63	67
Raw materials	92	82	66	89
Manufactured articles	65	68	85	79
Unclassified	63	*59	70	65

* Correction to 1951-52 Report.

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>
	£	£	£
1949	10,006	26,605	34,161
1950	18,709	1,168	15,419
1951	19,807	21,847	15,318
1952	17,990	3,733	13,786
1953	17,060	1,901	14,782
1954	18,181	7,133	22,772

Remittances from abroad were estimated to total £12,000 in 1953 and £11,000 in 1954.

FOOD CONTROL

During the war it was necessary for the Food Control Department to undertake most of the import trade of the Dependency, this being financed by an advance of some £50,000 by the Jamaica Treasury. Relatively large-scale importing backed by Government prestige had such obvious advantages that, after the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and it was necessary to continue the operation of the Food Control Department as a trading concern.

In November, 1952, the Food Control Department was converted into a government-owned limited liability company known as Turks Islands Importers Limited. The policy was laid down that all profits should go to the reduction of the Jamaica Treasury advance, and the more speculative aspects of the Department's trading in textiles and dry goods were curtailed. During the period under review efforts were made to encourage traders to make their own importations but the

results were disappointing. Little over 30 per cent of the import trade is now in private hands. During 1953-54 the Company showed a profit of £4,202 on a turnover (sales) of £111,000.

Price control powers are exercised by the Commissioner as Competent Authority under the Jamaica Defence Regulations, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

Chapter 6: Production

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Salt				
tons	22,558	10,319	9,155	11,687
value	£33,184	£18,290	£16,187	£19,193
Conchs (dried)				
number	3,126,350	2,527,200	2,794,750	2,968,070
value	£6,138	£5,054	£5,699	£9,648
Conchs (frozen)				
lbs.	53,340	20,830	3,270	21,492
value	£2,667	£1,317	£204	£1,413
Crawfish				
lbs.	73,920	35,200	81,588	126,640
value	£6,468	£2,653	£5,903	£11,032
Sisal				
lbs.	135,810	168,635	103,040	132,160
value	£8,470	£8,195	£5,750	£6,800

Salt

The production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the basic industry of the Dependency. Production is carried on at three islands, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production.

Three grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; and granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk and the granulated in bags. A fine salt plant, capable of producing salt for kitchen use, was brought into operation in Grand Turk for a short time in 1954 and there seems to be a reasonable prospect of disposing of the product in Jamaica. Unfortunately mechanical trouble has held up production.

The bulk loading of salt is still carried on by traditional methods, i.e. by shovels, half-bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and sailing lighters, as at none of the salt islands can a vessel drawing more than six feet come alongside a wharf. These antiquated methods make it impossible to give a loading rate of more than 650 tons per day and it has become

increasingly difficult to attract large ships to the Dependency under these conditions. During the period under review only one large shipment of over 2,000 tons was made.

The Turks Islands Salt Company, which took over the ownership and the operation of the salt industry from the private owners in April, 1951, saw no improvement in its affairs as the depression in salt sale continued. For the year ended 30th September, 1954, the books of the Company showed a net loss of £16,538 and an accumulated loss of £40,303. During 1953 the Company found itself unable to continue interest payments on the £60,000 debenture held by the Colonial Development Corporation, which there-upon nominated a director to the Board. No interest has been paid on the 54,000 5½ per cent cumulative preference shares held by the previous owners. Overhead expenses were drastically reduced in 1953 and production came to a virtual standstill at Grand Turk and South Caicos. The managing director, Mr. B. D. Kelly, completed his tour of secondment to the islands and returned to Jamaica in December, 1953, and the Commissioner, who was previously Chairman of the Company, took over the managership also.

As a result of an application for assistance to complete the modernisation of the loading facilities, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the collaboration of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, arranged for two experts to examine and report on the industry and its future. Mr. E. K. Willing-Denton and Mr. A. Ratcliffe of Imperial Chemical Industries Salt Division spent fourteen days in the Dependency in May, 1954, and Mr. Willing-Denton, accompanied by the Commissioner, then went to the United States and Canada to investigate marketing possibilities. As a result of the subsequent report of these experts it was decided that the Commissioner should continue as managing director and that he should concentrate his efforts on increasing sales and finding new markets, paying further visits to the United States and Canada as necessary. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £9,545 was approved to finance improvements to the salt ponds and to provide the salary for one year of an Assistant Commissioner who was to be appointed to free the Commissioner to devote his time more fully to the resuscitation of the Salt Company. Subsequently a Colonial Development and Welfare loan of £5,000 was made in addition for investment in the Company to enable it to continue in operation for a further twelve months, after which the position is to be reviewed.

The year 1953 showed little or no improvement in the Company's affairs, with sales at 9,841 tons being only 659 tons above those for the previous year, but a number of cargoes of fishery salt, including one of 3,000 tons, have been sold subsequently, and a slight improvement will be reflected in the 1954-55 results. It is doubtful, however, whether the industry in its isolated and mechanically antiquated condition can, if left to itself, hold its own in the face of competition from better equipped neighbours in the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic, and unless some protected channels can be found for its produce, either as a result

of trade agreements or affiliation with established users or producers, the future must remain gloomy.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of salt shipped in 1953 and 1954.

<i>Destination</i>	1953		1954	
	<i>Quantity tons</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity tons</i>	<i>Value £</i>
British West Indies:				
Barbados	360	525	—	—
Jamaica	5,427	11,310	5,536	11,381
Canada	897	1,376	5,548	7,073
Martinique	—	—	603	739
United States of America	2,471	2,976	—	—
Total	9,155	16,187	11,687	19,193

Fisheries

With the decline of the salt industry the Dependency's fisheries are beginning to assume a greater importance. Some three million dried conchs are exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they are sold for an average price of about \$(U.S.) 2.00 per hundred. These conch sales are the basis of a flourishing two-way trade in which vegetables, fruits and other supplies are brought back.

The management of the crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank has changed hands twice during the past two years and some improvement in the numbers of lobsters exported is evident. The organisation is still not entirely satisfactory, however, and much remains to be done to build up a sustained and regular catch. The lobsters are still speared, and this method leads to a certain amount of waste which may well call for attention if and when the Bank is fully fished.

Other fisheries are undeveloped, sponges remain few and far between and fresh fish is not easy to obtain in any of the major settlements. There are said to be large numbers of humpbacked whales on the Mouchoir and Silver Banks during the spring months, but although there are remnants of an old whaling industry, on Grand Turk and Salt Cay, no whaling has been done for a great many years.

Sisal

Sisal continues to be a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres of this crop planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful and a considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Output remains in the neighbourhood of 60 tons and is slowly increasing. The quality has been somewhat improved by enforcing stricter standards, but is unlikely ever to be first grade as long as the retting has to be done in salt water. The market for the fibre in Jamaica shut down completely for six months in 1953-54 but has now re-opened and appears firm. The price is sufficient to enable 5d. per pound of fibre to be paid to the peasant producer in his own village.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

The education system of the Dependency is under the control of the Board of Education of which the Commissioner is Chairman. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature. During the two years under review this has increased steadily by £500 per year, but all this increase has had to be used to improve the salaries of teachers.

There are 12 elementary schools in the Dependency, which serve the six inhabited islands, the school in Grand Turk being divided into senior and junior sections. Education of children between the ages of seven and fourteen is compulsory at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but the scattered nature of some of the settlements precludes such enforcement in the Caicos Islands. There were 999 names on the rolls in 1954 and the average attendance was 701. Comparative figures for the past three years are:

	1952	1953	1954
Number on roll	1,095	1,000	999
Average attendance . . .	665	665	701
% of attendance	61	65.1	71

Children enter the senior school at Grand Turk at 11 and may be required to pay fees after 14, otherwise education is free. Since 1953 the Board has awarded 12 scholarships at this school to pupils from the out-islands, each worth £24 a year. In addition a number of other pupils are given free places whenever their ability and the circumstances of their parents justify it.

The Education Officer, the Supervising Teacher, and Head-master of the Grand Turk senior school, seconded from Jamaica under the Colonial Development and Welfare Education Scheme, all completed their three year tours and returned to Jamaica early in 1953. The senior and junior schools were then amalgamated into one school with senior and junior sections, the former headmaster of the junior school becoming headmaster, and in addition Inspector of Schools. After some months an assistant headmaster was recruited in Jamaica and it is hoped that the school has now begun to settle down after its somewhat checkered career of the last few years. Some half-a-dozen pupils will sit for the Cambridge School Certificate examination for the first time in December, 1955.

Owing to the level of the salaries offered, the schools in the out-islands have to rely almost entirely on local talent for teachers and over 90 per cent of the staff are women. A teachers' training course was held in Grand Turk in 1953 and another is planned for 1955. Emphasis in the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes is placed on teachers' training. One teacher completed a two-year course in Jamaica in

December, 1954, and two more were sent for training in January, 1955.

The grant to the Board of Education from Government funds was £5,500 in 1953-54 and £6,000 in 1954-55. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant contributed £250 towards the reorganisation of the educational system in 1953, and £812 and £682 for school buildings and equipment during 1953 and 1954.

No facilities exist for technical or adult education. Most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk. Some of the Caicos schools contain small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The general health of the islands is good.

There have been no outbreaks of typhoid fever, cholera, amoebic dysentery and other water-borne diseases in the period reviewed. There were 155 cases of influenza in 1954 but these responded very satisfactorily to treatment and there were no deaths.

Facilities for sanitation and the disposal of garbage are lacking in most centres but during 1954 a system of collecting garbage was introduced in Grand Turk.

There is a lingering focus of leprosy on the island of Middle Caicos and one or two new cases are suspected. It has not yet been possible to arrange for investigation on the spot by a medical officer.

Attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly in Grand Turk was satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy was remarkably low considering the general nutritional status of the population. No cases of eclampsia were seen during the past year. Attendances totalled 96 with 82 deliveries, which are carried out by the District Midwife in the home. The midwife also does the post-natal examination of the babies and mothers. The Medical Officer is only called to a maternity case if there is any obstetric problem. During the last year only three such cases arose.

In 1953 the Governor of Jamaica opened a new 16-bed hospital at Grand Turk. This hospital, together with a clinic at Cockburn Harbour, was completed in 1952 with Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and is a model of its kind. Two medical officers, seconded for periods of one year from Jamaica, are stationed at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. The staff at the Grand Turk hospital consists of a matron, three staff nurses, three probationer nurses and a trained nurse for dispensary and midwifery work. There are also a sanitary inspector and, to assist the medical officer at South Caicos, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There are also district midwives at Salt Cay and in the Caicos settlements. Through the generous agreement of the Government of Jamaica in March, 1953, half the salaries of the staff of the hospital at Grand Turk are paid by the Jamaica Government.

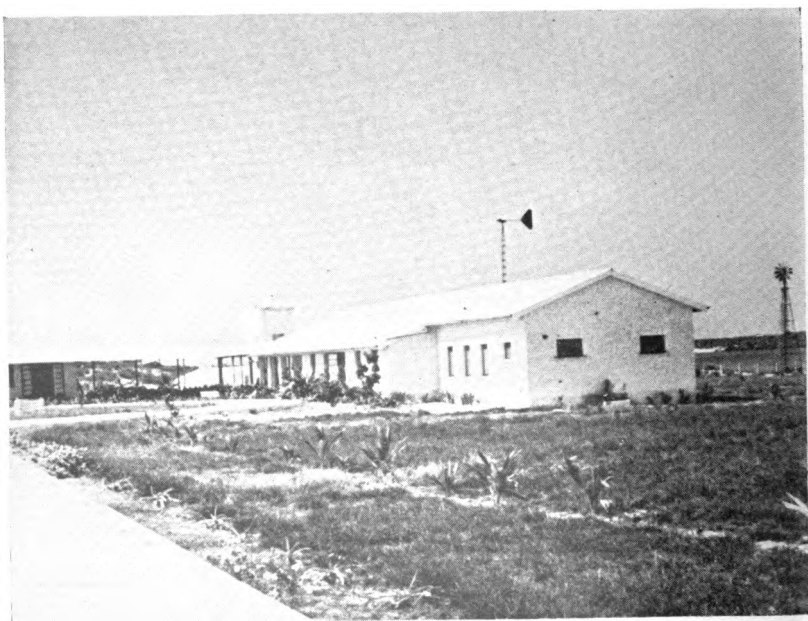
Government expenditure on medical services was £7,738 in 1953-54 and £10,739 in 1954-55.



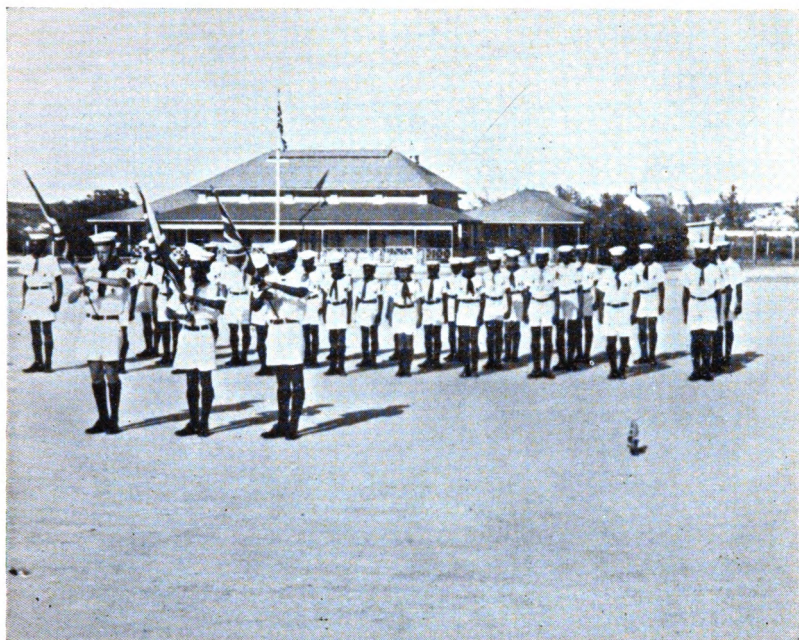
PRIZE WINNING BABIES: ANNUAL PARTY OF CHILD WELFARE
ASSOCIATION



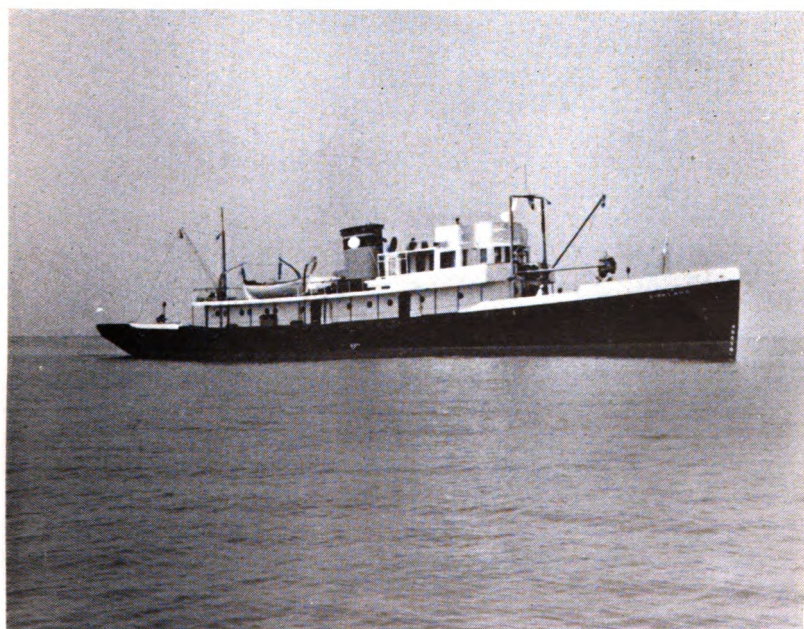
ROCK CRUSHER USED IN CONSTRUCTING NAVAL FACILITY



HOSPITAL, GRAND TURK, OPENED 1953



PARADE OF SCOUTS OUTSIDE THE SENIOR SCHOOL
BUILDING, GRAND TURK



M.V. "*Kirkland*"



CABLE AND WIRELESS



THE GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA OPENS NEW OFFICES OF
CABLE AND WIRELESS LTD.

SOCIAL WELFARE

A very considerable increase in social welfare activities has taken place during the past two years.

The Boy Scout movement, which was first started in the Dependency in late 1952, now has five troops at Grand Turk, one at Salt Cay and one at South Caicos, with a total membership exceeding one hundred.

In 1954 a branch of the Girl Guide movement was started at Grand Turk and three Guides were sent to Jamaica for a period of training. There has been a troop of Guides at Salt Cay for some years.

In 1953 a Child Welfare Committee was formed and clinics for sick and well babies from birth to six years have since been held twice a month. In 1954 the Committee was affiliated to the Child Welfare Association of Jamaica and began to administer a Milk Scheme, financed by a generous gift of £1,500 from the Jamaica Government. Under this scheme milk is made available on a subsidized basis to all children between the ages of six months and seven years in the three salt islands.

The Government was also able to avail itself of an offer of free tinned milk from the United Kingdom Government to supply all school children in the Dependency with half a pint of milk a day. The distribution of this milk began in March, 1955, and there are sufficient stocks to continue it for six months.

The Womens' Federation of Jamaica continued to expand its activities and branches have now been opened in many of the Caicos settlements, including Bottle Creek, Kew, and Blue Hills.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress. The Pauper Relief Committee administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases at the cost of £1,100 a year.

There is no Government insurance against old age or unemployment but it is the custom for relief work to be provided when unemployment is severe. During 1954 it was necessary to incur considerable expenditure for this purpose and this state of affairs continues.

Two cinemas, equipped by the British Council and from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, operate intermittently in the school buildings at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, and receive a subsidy of £50 a year from the Government.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Eight Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board in 1953 and seven in 1954 received the assent of the Governor of Jamaica:

1953

No. 1. The Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.

- No. 2. The Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground (Extension to the Turks and Caicos Islands) (Local Exemptions) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Immigration (Restriction) (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The General Revenue Appropriation 1953-54 Ordinance.
- No. 5. The Supplementary Appropriation (1948-49) Ordinance.
- No. 6. The Legitimation Ordinance.
- No. 7. The Aliens Property Ordinance.
- No. 8. The Liquor Licence (Amendment) Ordinance.

1954

- No. 1. The Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Medical Service (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Supplementary Appropriation (1949-50) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The Supplementary Appropriation (1950-51) Ordinance.
- No. 5. The Supplementary Appropriation (1951-52) Ordinance.
- No. 6. The Coroners (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 7. The General Revenue Appropriation 1954-55 Ordinance.

The Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground (Extension to the Turks and Caicos Islands) (Local Exemption) Ordinance, 1953, implemented the provisions of the agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America on the extension of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground by the establishment of additional sites in the Dependency.

The Aliens Property Ordinance, 1953, provided for the ownership of real and personal property by aliens. Formerly aliens were able to lease land only.

The Medical Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954, is designed to make better provision for the collection of medical and hospital fees.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend its legislation to the Dependency.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate, normally a Deputy Clerk of the Courts seconded from Jamaica for a two year term. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting

Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary enquiry is taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 26 in the Dependency. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

POLICE

Regular police, a few of whom have been trained in Jamaica, are stationed at Grand Turk (six), Cockburn Harbour (four) and Salt Cay (one). The force is commanded by a Sergeant under the supervision of the Inspector of Police, which office is held by the Assistant Commissioner. In the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable at each of the eight larger settlements, who is assisted when necessary by a number of special constables.

In 1953 offences against public morality followed by thefts accounted for the greater number of persons arrested or summoned to court. Crime statistics for 1954 are shown in the tables pages 20 & 21.

The Prison

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population continues in the neighbourhood of six.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is Chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects the prison and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on government property and in breaking stones.

TABLE I. CASES REPORTED TO AND DEALT WITH BY
THE POLICE, 1954

OFFENCES					Not taken to Court				Taken to Court				
	Pending at 31. 12. 1953	Total reported in 1954	Pending investigation at 31. 12. 1954	Referred to Native (or Local) Courts	Total	Civil; no case in law; or found false	Evidence insufficient, trivial or undetected, etc.	Accused dead or insane	Total	Convicted	Dismissed	Nolle Prosequi	Awaiting trial at 31. 12. 1954
<i>Against public morality</i>													
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other	—	180	—	180	20	—	20	—	160	148	12	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>													
Murder and manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	—	22	—	22	—	—	—	—	22	20	2	—	—
Assaults	1	50	—	51	18	—	18	—	33	26	6	—	1
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>													
Thefts and other stealings	—	26	2	28	—	—	—	—	26	22	3	1	—
Robbery and extortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Receiving stolen property	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	6	2	—	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	288	2	292	38	—	38	—	252	224	26	1	1

TABLE II. PERSONS DEALT WITH BY THE COURTS, 1954

OFFENCES	Convicted															
	Total arrested or summoned to court	Acquitted	Nolle Prosequi	Awaiting trial at 31. 12. 1954	Total	Death		Imprisonment			Whipping		Fine			First offenders Act of warning
						M	F	M	F	J	M	J	M	F	J	
<i>Against public morality</i>																
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	160	12	—	—	148	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	116	30	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>																
Murder and manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	22	2	—	—	20	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Assaults	33	6	—	1	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	7	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>																
Thefts and other stealings	26	3	1	—	22	—	—	12	3	—	—	—	5	2	—	—
Robbery and extortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Receiving stolen property	8	2	—	—	6	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	252	26	1	1	224	—	—	32	4	—	—	2	146	40	—	—

M = Male adults

F = Female adults

J = Juveniles

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from windchargers, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon. There are 19 of these tanks with a total capacity of 803,000 gallons, as follows:

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	11	493,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	4	234,000
Kew	1	40,000
Total	19	803,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation. There is a distilling plant at Grand Turk purchased after the 1951 drought, but fortunately it has not been necessary to resort to this very expensive source of supply. Water storage is far from adequate and almost every year it is necessary to impose rationing. It is hoped to build further tanks as and when funds become available.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a Superintendent with a regular staff of two persons, other staff being employed when required.

A major programme of road reconstruction was begun in 1954 with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds (see pages 6 and 24).

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, out of New York, call at Grand Turk approximately once a month. Unfortunately these calls are made on the return passage north-bound, some three weeks after leaving New York, with the result that the importation of fresh supplies from this source is not possible without expensive refrigeration. Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage but did not make a call during the two years under review. Even when a call is made, freight

rates for direct delivery to Grand Turk are some 10 per cent higher than the rates to Jamaica. Ships of the Royal Mail Line call direct from the United Kingdom twice a year.

M.V. Kirksons, a vessel of some 300 tons capacity, was for some years under contract to the Turks Islands Salt Company and plied regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk, at slightly less than monthly intervals, bringing mail and the bulk of supplies and taking out salt. In April, 1955, she was replaced by *M.V. Kirkland*, a faster and more comfortable ship which will in future operate a fortnightly service.

There are three ports of entry, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than 15 feet must anchor at some distance from the shore.

There were eight new vessels registered in the Dependency in 1953 and three in 1954, with gross tonnage of 95 and 30 tons respectively, making a total of 121 vessels with 1,641 tons gross. These range in size from five to 25 tons and are mostly sloops built in the Caicos Islands. These sloops carry on regular trade with the north coast of Haiti, taking dried conchs and bringing back fresh supplies.

AIR SERVICES

Early in 1953 Caribbean International Airways were forced to discontinue their monthly flights between Kingston and Grand Turk as a result of the loss of their aircraft. Later in the same year a regular monthly service was undertaken by British West Indian Airways in return for a guarantee by the Turks Islands Government, but this was discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive. Flights are now made only when there is sufficient traffic. Efforts are being made to arrange for a regular service between Nassau and Grand Turk.

POSTAL SERVICES

For most of the two years under review the Dependency enjoyed a weekly air mail service with Nassau by courtesy of the U.S. Air Force. An alteration in schedules, however, brought this to an end in November, 1954, and all mail, air and surface, is now carried by sea to Kingston at approximately two weekly intervals. The Post Office dealt with an estimated 200,000 postal articles in 1954.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Messrs. Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. also operate a radio-telephone service to Kingston with connections to the North American mainland. The installations of this Company, including staff quarters, have been completely modernised during the past two years.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Messrs. Cable and Wireless, provides a twice daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are also broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets. This radio-telephone system was re-equipped during

1954 with new VHF sets purchased under a Colonial Development and Welfare grant.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has 48 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

The roads in Grand Turk have been subjected to heavy traffic during the past three years as a result of American military activity. After the completion of the Guided Missile Observer Station some three miles of road were re-surfaced at a cost of £5,000, which the American Authorities agreed to reimburse. With the establishment of the Naval Facility at the extreme north end of the island the Americans have now undertaken the construction of a tarmac road between the two bases, which will run the whole length of the island.

A large programme of road reconstruction is at present being undertaken on the islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos with Colonial Development and Welfare funds, as a result of which the condition of the roads should be better than for some time past.

There are no motor roads or motor vehicles in the Lower Caicos Islands where most travelling is done by sailing boat. Efforts have begun, however, to open up a number of tracks suitable for donkey carts.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

There are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Dependency. The Government printing office prints the Official Gazette every week. Messrs. Cable and Wireless distribute a limited number of copies of a daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There are two cinemas operated under Government auspices in the school buildings at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour of which details are given in Chapter 7.

By courtesy of Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited a government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 11 a.m. This was inaugurated in September, 1954, for the benefit of the out-islands. It consists of a five minute review of local news, shipping and postal services, general news and government announcements. The Commissioner broadcast a Christmas message over this service and it is hoped that it may be possible to expand its use in the future.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° North latitude and 71° and $72^{\circ}30'$ West longitude, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep-water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group has ever been made until recently. Gradual filling in of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank, as described by Dr. H. H. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938), is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos Islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the Bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages, most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called Blue Hills locally) and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate,

which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank". This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (*annelida Mollusca* and *Crustacea*). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier of reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches at Grand Turk, appears to have declined. The average at Grand Turk for the six years ending 1954 was 25.22 inches, with 17.38 inches in 1950, 26.45 in 1953 and 28.33 inches in 1954.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour.

Chapter 2: History

The Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall but this theory has now been generally discredited. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in a cave on Middle Caicos. No European occupation was attempted until 1687, when a party of Bermudians came regularly about March and remained until around November, when the salt raking season was over. In 1770 they were expelled by the Spaniards, but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity with occasional interruptions from further Spanish attacks. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French from Haiti. In 1766, an agent, one Andrew Symmer, was appointed "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." This marked the beginning of a year-round occupation.

By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of Southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remain.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered under the Governor of Jamaica by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track". During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damages inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but such success as there was was short-lived. In 1943, however, arrangements were made for the motor vessel *Kirksons*, of Cayman Islands registry, to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Ltd. who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Ltd., are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Ltd. established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service with Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December, 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The last previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947, but

in 1951; as a result of an agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the United States, a site was selected on Grand Turk for a United States Air Force Base for the purpose of observing experimental guided missile flights.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949 but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the Dependency, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive. Special flights are now operated by B.W.I.A. when required but it is hoped to make arrangements for a regular service between Grand Turk and Nassau where there is greater potential traffic.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the only visit ever made to the Dependency by a Minister of the Crown though the islands had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) visiting Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban* in which he was serving as a lieutenant.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every freeman present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. On 5th March, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by the Acting Governor of Jamaica, and on 9th April, 1951, the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received the exclusive right to export salt from the Dependency. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. Peter Bleackley, M.B.E. held this post during the two years under review.

The laws of the Dependency are passed by the Legislative Board, which, in the period under review, consisted of the Commissioner as Chairman, three official and four unofficial members, nominated by

the Governor of Jamaica. Subject to the assent of the Governor, the Board exercises full legislative and budgetary powers, but it is the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before it is introduced. Jamaica legislation may also be made applicable in the Dependency.

An executive committee of the Board, consisting of two official and two unofficial members, meets as required to advise the Commissioner on any matters he may wish to refer to it.

The seat of government is at Grand Turk. The Caicos Islands are under the supervision of a District Commissioner stationed at Cockburn Harbour. These islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales).

The District Boards, which normally consist of eight persons, with the District Constable as chairman and the local school teacher as secretary, are appointed by the Commissioner, but it is now the practice in three of the areas concerned to make these appointments after the holding of unofficial elections.

Regular touring of the Caicos settlements by the Commissioner has been maintained and in 1954 the Governor of Jamaica visited the settlement of Bottle Creek on North Caicos. This was the first time that a Governor had visited any of the Lower Caicos settlements and the occasion was suitably celebrated by a large concourse of people.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible local government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards now receive allocations of varying sizes to be spent on local works of their own choosing and under their own supervision. The policy has so far met with varying success, the most encouraging progress being made at Bottle Creek. A draft ordinance to extend the scope of these District Boards, and to establish similar bodies in the salt islands, is at present under examination in Jamaica.

Sir Hugh Foot, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., Governor of Jamaica continued his annual visits to the Dependency in 1953 and 1954, and other visitors included Mr. C. M. Deverell, C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E., the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica.

Cordial relations were maintained with the local representatives of the U.S. Air Force and Navy, and the Commanding General, Air Force Missile Test Centre, Patrick, Florida, and the Commander, Service Force, Atlantic Fleet from Norfolk, Virginia, each paid two visits to the island.

APPENDIX

Members of the Legislative Board:

OFFICIAL

P. Bleackley, M.B.E. (*Commissioner.*)
H. V. T. Chambers, Magistrate.
E. T. Wood, Treasurer.
J. W. Astwood, District Commissioner, Caicos.

UNOFFICIAL

F. C. Grant.
J. N. Morgan.
G. E. M. Ewing.
R. E. Basden.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

BROWN, DR. H. H. *Survey of Sponge Ground*, Jamaica, Government Printer, 1938.

Financial and Economic Position: Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. London, Crown Agents 1937, for the Government of Jamaica.

PUSEY, REV. J. H. *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands.* Kingston Colonial Publishers Co. Ltd. (out of print).

TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricanes of 1926 and 1928.* London, Waterlow, 1928, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

WALTON-SMITH, F. G. *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida.* Caribbean Commission Fishery Series, No. 3. Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry.* Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.

WATKINS, F. H. *Turks and Caicos Islands; Report on the Salt Industry.* Cd. 4326, 1908.

APPENDIX

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES INITIATED OR IN PROGRESS DURING THE YEARS 1953 AND 1954

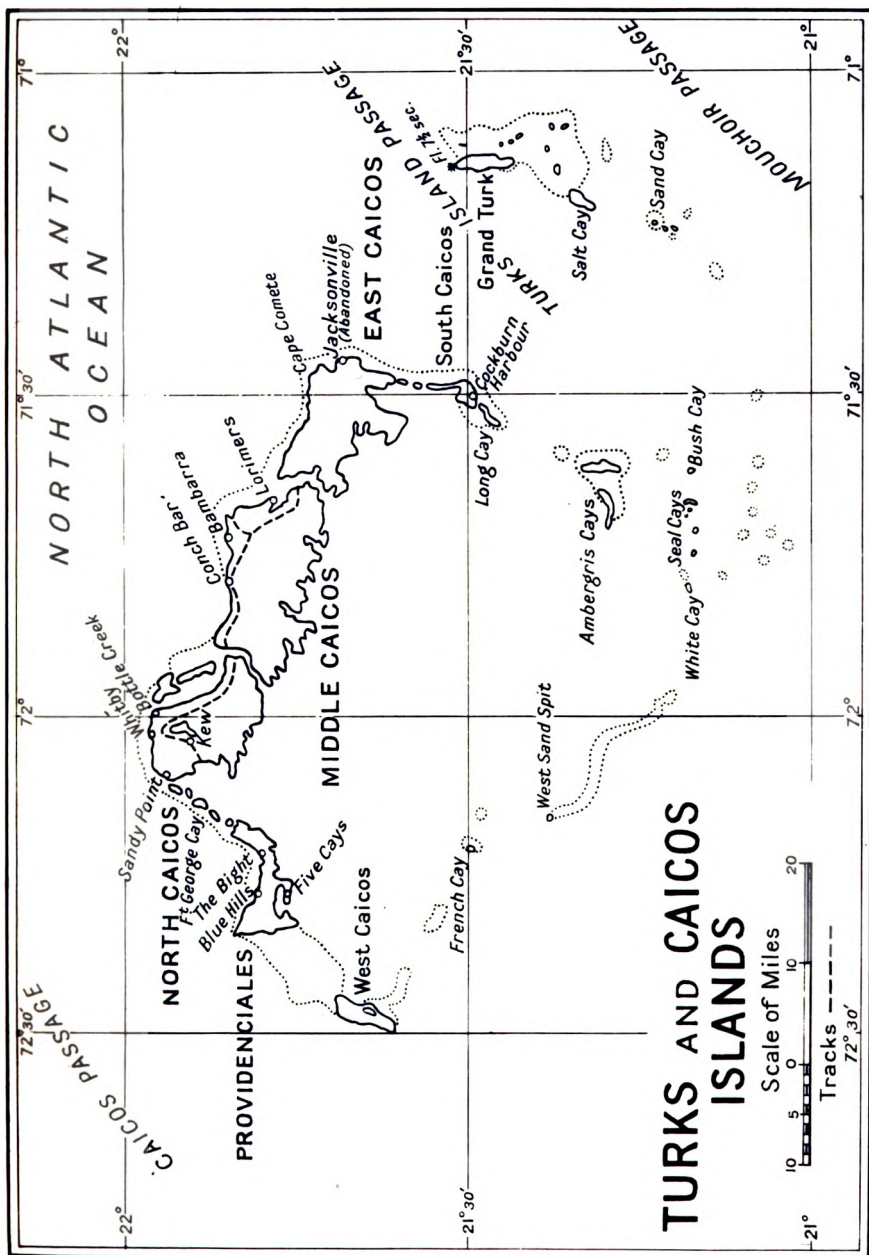
Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.54	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D13B(aa)	Sports Equipment	150	131	
D119B	Grand Turk Lighthouse (Supplementary grant in addition to grants of £4,625 under Schemes D119 and D119A, the new Light being installed during 1948/49 at a total cost of £6,199).	1,600	1,574	
D967	Sand Cay Lighthouse (Recurrent contribution for operation of an unattended light at Great Sand Cay for five years, 1950/51 to 1954/55) . .	500	487	199
D967A	Sand Cay Lighthouse (Supplementary grant to cover excess capital expenditure above £4,150 provided by Scheme D967).	767	767	
D1108(261)	Training of Assistant Clerk to the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands to fit him for appointment as Clerk	215	200	19
D1126	Improvement of Educational System in the Turks and Caicos Islands (£17,535) Capital	8,980	7,520	
	Recurrent	8,555	7,376*	
	*Local Grant to Board of Education Fund 1953/54 £5,500 1954/55 £6,000			
	Note: The original C.D. W. Grant of £21,310 revised to £17,535			
D1162 & A & B	Course in Medicine at the University College of the West Indies for a Candidate (Mr. T. E. Been) from the Turks and Caicos Islands (£2,455) In addition to the Dependency contribution of £290 the expenditure under local resources includes payments to the candidate's dependants at £60 per annum).	2,165	1,987	680
	Carried forward	22,932	20,042	898

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Expenditure to 31.12.54		
		Approved Grant	C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
	<i>Brought forward</i>	22,932	20,042	898
D1360 & A & B	Public Health Scheme			
	D1360	£34,750		
	D1360A	5,450		
	D1360B	5,810		
		<u>£46,010</u>		
	Capital	38,110	36,424	
	Recurrent	7,900	5,934	
	(Recurrent expenditure includes contribution of £1,884 for year ending 31/3/55).			
D1452	The Improvement of Water Storage Facilities in the Dependency (Original grant of £4,000 reduced to £3,628)	3,628	3,628	
D1474	The provision of additional Clerical Assistance to deal with the increased work due to the Development Programme	1,210	957	807
D1670	Improved Wireless Telephone Communication between the main settlements of the Dependency (Total cost £1,225)	875	698	298
D1695	Agricultural Development (Original grant of £5,600 reduced to £2,600).	2,600	910	
D2185	Investigation into Turks and Caicos Islands Salt Industry (Administered by the Secretary of State for the Colonies)	1,650	1,650 (Estimated)	
D2356	Development and Improvement of roads in the Dependencies	16,520	2,055	
D2357	Turks Island Salt Company Industry Development and Marketing (£14,545)	9,545	3,092	
		104,970	75,390	2,003
		<i>Approved Loan</i>		
	Ditto	5,000	—	—
	Total	109,970	75,390	2,003

Note: Scheme D13B(u) approved 3rd March, 1945, for the construction of two slaughter houses, and revised 21st October, 1950, for the construction of a slaughter house at Cockburn Harbour and the rebuilding of one at Grand Turk at a cost not exceeding £500 for both works, has not yet been implemented.

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

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TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

Report for the years
1955 and 1956

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1957

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PART I

Review of 1955 and 1956

DURING the years 1955-1956, the Dependency had to face many problems, but at the end of the period there was a feeling of confidence in the islands that after many years of depression there was some hope of better days to come.

In 1955 the financial and economic situation deteriorated. In spite of all efforts to maintain the most rigid economy it was clear that the budget deficit was going to be higher than estimated, and the Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes which had done so much to help the employment situation were coming to an end. As all the Dependency's reserves had been used up there was no alternative but to apply to the United Kingdom Government for a grant-in-aid to enable basic services to be maintained and for an annual grant towards relief work in the salt islands. A grant-in-aid of administration of £40,000 to cover the deficits for the financial years 1955-56 and 1956-57 was approved, and this had a most heartening effect on everyone in the Dependency.

At the same time a determined effort was made to find out whether markets existed for the sale of Turks Islands salt, with the result that there was a slow but steady improvement in the industry, and this had some effect on the employment situation. The American bases on Grand Turk continued to employ as many local persons as possible and the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, after a break of many years, again started recruiting seamen from the islands. Efforts were made to have some surplus labour employed in the development schemes in Grand Bahama Island, but so far the results have been disappointing. The grant made towards relief work in the salt islands has been of great assistance, but it still means that particularly on Grand Turk some men are employed for only three days a week. The long-term view is not entirely unpromising and there are signs that at least the salt industry might be in full production again within a year or two. Certainly the proposed reorganisation of the Turks Islands Salt Company (see p. 14) has prepared the way for the re-establishment of the industry, and the major problem in the future may well be one of production and delivery rather than, as in the past few years, of trying to sell accumulated stocks of old salt.

All these problems, plus a most disastrous drought in 1956, did not stop the people from playing an even greater part in social welfare activities. The branch of the Child Welfare Association has continued to organise regular baby clinics on Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, and has operated a government milk scheme for the distribution of subsidized milk to all young children. The Jamaica

Federation of Women has increased its activities to such an extent that there is a branch in practically every settlement. The Boy Scout movement now has troops in the Caicos Settlements as well as on Grand Turk and at Salt Cay, and the Girl Guide Company in Grand Turk has increased its membership.

In 1955 there was an important advance in the political sphere, when, by Proclamation, the constitution of the Legislative Board was changed, increasing the number of nominated members from four to eight. This important amendment made it possible to allow representation to the lower Caicos Islands, and in 1956 unofficial elections were held to appoint the four new members, thus creating for the first time an unofficial majority on the Board. This progress was a continuation of the policy of encouraging the Dependency to exercise greater autonomy in the management of its own affairs while still maintaining its close association with Jamaica. The question of the future constitutional relationship between the Dependency and Jamaica, and the manner in which the Dependency will participate in the British West Indies Federation, will mark the next steps in the political advance of the islands.

Conditions in the Caicos Islands have continued to improve, but the drought in 1956 caused considerable hardship when all the early crops failed. The production of sisal is still the most valuable cash crop, particularly in North Caicos, and the export of dried conchs, conch shell and lobsters has helped to maintain the settlements. The lobster industry has suffered from the lack of capital, bad weather and the inefficient method of catching the lobsters, but it is hoped that the new management which took over the Company towards the end of 1956 will improve and expand this important trade to the United States.

The Board of Education has done everything possible within the limits of its financial resources to improve the standard of education in the Dependency. Lack of trained teachers has been the main problem and the Board of Education, taking the long-term view, has sent as many teachers as possible for higher training in Jamaica.

A weekly air service from Nassau to Grand Turk, operated by Bahama Airways Limited, was started in 1956. This service, which is subsidized under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, has been of tremendous benefit to the Dependency, and there has been a steady flow of business men and other travellers coming to the islands. It has been of importance, particularly, to the Salt Company, as several buyers from the United States have come to Grand Turk to inspect production. The volume of air traffic would have been even greater if suitable accommodation had been available on Grand Turk.

Relations with the American bases have been excellent and most generous help was given by both bases during the drought in 1956. During the hurricane season they co-operated with Cable and Wireless Limited to ensure that a close check was kept on all hurricanes

coming near the islands, with the result that it was possible to broadcast accurate and up-to-date warning messages to all the outlying settlements in the Caicos, thus minimising the risk of casualties and damage.

In 1955 an oil exploration licence was granted to the Bahama California Oil Company, and marine seismic operations were carried out in the waters of the Dependency in the same year. These operations were of a preliminary nature and the results are still being studied by the Company together with the results of surveys carried out in the Bahamas.

Although the Dependency cannot expect any dramatic improvement in its economic conditions, there is at least a good chance that the salt industry can be revived and placed in full production again within the next two years. This industry is the only major one in the Dependency, and the economic health of the islands will always be weak until it is re-established.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Preparation of the Dependency's Development Plan for the five-year period ending in 1960 has been delayed, since plans for the reorganisation of the Salt Company have not been finalised, and it has not been clear what funds would be required for this reorganisation.

Major schemes in operation during 1955 and 1956 were for development and improvement of roads, development and marketing of salt, and construction of sea defences at Grand Turk. A list of the schemes is set out at Appendix I.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the Dependency at the time of the last census in 1943 was 6,138 made up as follows :

Persons of African descent	.	.	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	.	.	1,935
Persons of European descent	.	.	122

The number of females exceeded the number of males by 19·9 per cent. This excess has, if anything, increased during the intervening years and it is estimated that at any given time up to 50 per cent of the adult male population are absent seeking their livelihood abroad. This is particularly noticeable in the Caicos Islands where the ratio of women to men at any public function is frequently more than three to one. The number of locally born persons of European descent has continued to decline, but since the establishment of the United States military bases there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements is roughly estimated to be :

Grand Turk	.	.	.	.	1,800
Salt Cay	.	.	.	.	350
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	.	.	.	.	600
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	.	.	.	.	1,400
Kew (North Caicos)	.	.	.	.	400
Blue Hills (Providenciales)	.	.	.	.	700

Although the birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, there is an excess of emigrants over immigrants. The births and deaths registered during 1955 and 1956 were as follows :

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths	Natural Increase
1955	268	96	172
1956	223	83	140

Migration figures were :

	1955	1956
Entered	294	486
Departed	402	511
Excess departures over entries	108	25

Thirty-six marriages were registered in 1955 and 25 in 1956.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisations

THE Turks Island Salt Company is the chief source of employment in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, and although the Company has made some progress in improving sales and thus providing more employment, it was necessary during the latter part of 1955 and for the whole of 1956 to use some of the grant-in-aid funds to provide useful work for the unemployed in improving the salinas. This has enabled labourers who are willing to work in the salinas to be employed for three or four days a week at the rate of 9s. per day.

A programme of road work, as part of a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, was of considerable assistance during the first half of 1955 in relieving the acute state of depression in Grand Turk and at South Caicos.

The number of persons employed on a semi-permanent basis at the two American bases has increased to approximately 50, and at different times, when construction work has been in progress, this figure has been substantially increased.

Lobster and conch fishing continued to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands, but here as elsewhere in the Dependency a large number of adult males are absent working in the salt industry at Inagua and the lumber industry on Grand Bahama Island.

The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company has resumed recruitment of seamen in the Dependency, and during the past two years 70 men have been engaged.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wage rates in the salt industry and for unskilled work on roads, etc., continue at 9s. for an eight-hour day. Other rates are as follows :

Carpenters, masons, etc.	. . .	15s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	. . .	12s. to 15s. per day
Domestic servants, females	. . .	20s. to 80s. per month (usually with rations)

The scale of wages paid for work at the American bases, fixed by agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities, was raised during 1956 and is now as follows :

	<i>Ordinary Time (per hour)</i>
<i>Group I</i> Domestic female worker	2s. (\$.28) to 2s. 6d. (\$.35)
<i>Group II</i> Unskilled labour	2s. 3d. (\$.32) to 2s. 8½d. (\$.38)
<i>Group III</i> Stevedoring	2s. 6d. (\$.35) to 3s. 1½d. (\$.44)
<i>Group IV</i> Semi-skilled artisans	2s. 9d. (\$.39) to 3s. 6d. (\$.49)
<i>Group V</i> Skilled artisans	3s. 6½d. (\$.50) to 4s. 3d. (\$.60)

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognized by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs :

	Unit	1950	1954	1955	1956
Beef, pickled	lb.	1s. 10d.	2s. 10d.	2s. 10d.	2s. 10d.
Beans, red Kidney	qt.	1s. 9d.	2s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	2s. 6d.
Corn	qt.	6d.	1s.	1s.	1s.
Cabbage	lb.	8d.	1s.	1s.	1s.
Cornmeal	lb.	5d.	6½d.	6½d.	6½d.
Condensed Milk	14 oz.	10½d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 6d.
Flour	lb.	5½d.	6½d.	6½d.	6½d.
Lard	lb.	1s. 4½d.	1s. 11d.	1s. 11d.	1s. 11d.
Margarine	lb.	1s. 5d.	2s. 3d.	2s. 3d.	2s. 3d.
Meat, Jamaican	lb.	2s.	2s. 9d.	2s. 9d.	3s. 3d.
Onions	lb.	6d.	1s.	10d.	1s.
Oranges	doz.	1s.	2s.	2s.	2s.
Plantains	each	2½d.	3d.	4d.	4d.
Pork, pickled	lb.	1s. 5d.	2s.	2s.	2s.
Potatoes, Irish	lb.	4½d.	6d.	7½d.	7½d.
Potatoes, sweet	lb.	4d.	5d.	4d.	5d.
Powdered Milk	lb.	4s. 10d.	5s. 10d.	5s. 10d.	5s. 10d.
Rice	qt.	1s. 1d.	1s.	2s.	2s. 2d.
Sugar (granulated)	lb.	7d.	8½d.	8½d.	8½d.

Civil Servants' salaries were raised on the 1st April 1956, increases averaging between 15 per cent and 20 per cent.

Although the prices of basic foods which are still controlled have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods, have increased considerably. In addition, because of the acute shortage of suitable housing on Grand Turk there has been a big increase in rents.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the Dependency, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

Despite the strictest economy in Government expenditure, instituted as a result of the financial crisis in 1951, the general financial position of the Dependency continued to grow worse, until towards the end of 1955 it became clear that there was no alternative but to apply to the United Kingdom for a grant-in-aid to enable basic services to be maintained. This application was approved and the sum of £40,000 was made available by the United Kingdom Government as a grant-in-aid of administration to cover the deficits for the financial years 1955-56 and 1956-57.

There is no authorised public debt but, in addition a deficit of £23,786, as at the 31st March 1956, on the current account with the Jamaica Government, there is an amount of £26,553 owing at that date by Turks Islands Importers Limited. The £5,000 of shares held by the Turks Islands Government in this Company were sold to private interests who now operate the Company and have guaranteed repayment of the debt owing to the Jamaica Government.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four years are shown in the following tables.

REVENUE

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Revised Estimate)
	£	£	£
Customs	32,004	33,893	30,400
Salt Royalty	1,606	2,665	—
Port Dues	624	951	775
Licences & Other Internal Revenue	1,084	1,173	950
Fees of Court and Office	648	883	622
Departmental Revenue	453	591	485
Reimbursements	2,063	10,383	3,076
Post Office	4,751	2,937	2,640
Interest	347	851	960
Miscellaneous	4,563	2,928	2,036
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	48,143	57,255	41,944
Industries	5,629	15,448	5,300
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	21,085	17,607	7,407
Investments	10,000	—	—
Land Sales	—	—	—
Sale of 1,000 Ordinary Shares in Turks Islands Importers Limited	—	5,000	—
Deficits	4,431	—	—
Grant-in-aid of Administration	—	—	39,851
TOTAL REVENUE	89,288	95,310	94,502

EXPENDITURE

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Revised Estimates)
	Actual £	Actual £	Estimates £
Pensions	3,191	3,610	2,779
Commissioner's Department	8,831	10,741	9,609
Treasury and Customs	5,083	5,598	6,367
Judicial Department	1,710	1,399	2,332
Police Department	4,087	4,597	4,921
Prison Department	1,479	1,312	1,626
Medical Department	10,645	9,005	10,773
Paupers and Lunatics	982	945	1,150
Education	6,000	6,500	6,850
Miscellaneous	11,556	6,082	6,341

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57 (Revised Estimates)
	Actual £	Actual £	£
Post Office	2,370	1,642	2,129
Lighthouses	801	1,105	1,470
Savings Bank	386	372	392
Food Control Department	—	3,905	—
Public Works Department	1,564	1,874	2,179
Public Works Recurrent	3,343	4,704	4,650
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	62,028	63,391	63,568
Public Works Extraordinary	1,645	1,745	1,250
Industries	6,009	7,046	4,800
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	18,730	15,710	7,184
Land Purchases	13	13	500
Unallocated Stores Cr.	403(Cr.)	—	—
Relief Works	543	—	—
Investments	723	—	—
Grant to Turks Islands Salt Company	—	6,664	14,200
Drought	—	—	3,000
Surplus	—	741	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	89,288	95,310	94,502

Sales of postage stamps during the last two years have been disappointing. Payment of salt royalty has been waived from the 1st April 1956, to enable the Turks Islands Salt Company to repay amounts due to the former owners of salt stocks taken over in 1951 when the Company was formed.

No direct taxation is levied in the Dependency, there being neither poll, income nor property tax.

Financial assistance from the Jamaica Government includes payment of half the salaries of the staff of the Grand Turk hospital and of the two Medical Officers.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be :

	£
Jamaica Notes	40,000
Jamaica Nickel	10
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the Dependency. The Government Savings Bank held on the 31st December 1955, a total of £63,569 in 1,859 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £36,867 and £38,804 respectively during the year. On the 31st December 1956, this Bank held a total of £65,644 in 1,923 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £35,495 and £34,792 respectively during the year.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The value of imports and exports during the last six years was as follows :

	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £	1954 £	1955 £	1956 £
Imports	127,125	133,041	125,239	134,959	125,792	143,218
Exports	56,972	35,509	33,743	48,086	48,648	52,207

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past six years :

Year	United Kingdom £	Other parts of the Commonwealth £	Foreign Countries £	Total £
1951	27,330	65,961	33,834	127,125
1952	19,784	65,497	47,760	133,041
1953	23,901	63,997	37,341	125,239
1954	26,569	70,126	38,264	134,959
1955	11,384	72,278	42,130	125,792
1956	8,890	66,242	68,086	143,218

The main types of imports for the years 1953-56 were :

	1953 £	1954 £	1955 £	1956 £
Food, drink and tobacco	79,240	94,058	80,546	96,368
Raw Materials	6,548	7,347	7,584	10,325
Manufactured articles	37,620	33,026	36,354	35,433
Unclassified	1,831	528	1,308	1,092

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin :

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Food, drink and tobacco	63	67	65	48
Raw Materials	66	89	84	56
Manufactured Articles	85	79	66	62
Unclassified	70	65	61	50

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>
	£	£	£
1951	19,807	21,847	15,318
1952	17,990	3,733	13,786
1953	17,060	1,901	14,782
1954	18,181	7,133	22,772
1955	18,368	10,735	19,545
1956	20,129	10,180	21,898

Remittances from abroad were estimated to total £12,000 in 1955, and £14,000 in 1956.

FOOD CONTROL

During the war it was necessary for the Food Control Department to undertake most of the import trade of the Dependency, this being financed by an advance of some £50,000 by the Jamaica Treasury. Relatively large-scale importing, backed by Government prestige, had such obvious advantages that, after the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and it was necessary to continue the operation of the Food Control Department as a trading concern.

In November 1952, the Food Control Department was converted into a government-owned limited liability company known as Turks Islands Importers Limited. The policy was laid down that all profits should go to the reduction of the Jamaica Treasury advance, and the more speculative aspects of the Department's trading in textiles and dry goods were curtailed.

In 1955 Turks Islands Importers Limited was taken over by private enterprise who have also taken over liability for the repayment of the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding. This firm is however still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available.

Price control powers are exercised by the Commissioner as Competent Authority under the Jamaica Defence Regulations, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

Chapter 6: Production

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows :

Production

13

	1953	1954	1955	1956
Salt :				
Tons	9,155	11,687	13,817	15,781
Value	£16,187	£19,193	£22,788	£27,640
Conchs (dried) :				
Number	2,794,750	2,968,070	2,718,700	2,633,650
Value	£5,699	£9,648	£9,586	£9,962
Conchs (frozen) :				
Lb.	3,270	21,492	17,700	—
Value	£204	£1,413	£1,156	—
Crawfish :				
Lb.	81,588	126,640	89,120	115,352
Value	£5,903	£11,032	£7,798	£6,245
Sisal :				
Lb.	103,040	132,160	138,880	170,240
Value	£5,750	£6,800	£6,820	£8,360

Salt

The production of salt by solar evaporation from sea-water remains the basic industry of the Dependency. Production is carried on at three islands, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production.

Three grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; and granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, and the granulated in bags. A fine salt plant capable of producing salt for kitchen use was brought into operation in Grand Turk in 1954 and there now seems to be a reasonable prospect of disposing of the product in Jamaica and other West Indian Islands. The main problem has been in drying the fine salt, but this is being overcome.

The bulk loading of salt is still carried on by traditional methods, i.e., by shovels, half-bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and sailing lighters, as at none of the salt islands can a vessel drawing more than six feet come alongside a wharf. These antiquated methods make it impossible to give a loading rate of more than 600 tons per day, and with the present high freight rates it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract large ships to the Dependency under these conditions. During the period under review only one large shipment of over 3,000 tons was made.

The Turks Islands Salt Company, which took over the ownership and the operation of the salt industry from the private owners in 1951, did not see very much improvement in its affairs in 1955 and 1956. For the year ending the 30th of September 1955, the books of the Company showed a net loss of £17,000 and an accumulated loss of £57,300.

In 1954, as the result of an application to assist the industry, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the collaboration of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, arranged for two experts to examine and report on the industry and its future. Mr. E. K. Willing-Denton and Mr. A. Ratcliffe of Imperial Chemical Industries Salt Division

carried out a full investigation of the industry, and their report clearly showed that the Company had no chance of survival without further capital investment of the order of £35,000 to £50,000 which they recommended should be undertaken if it could be shown that markets for Turks Islands salt were available in the United States and Canada. The report added that even with investment on this scale the Company could not in the foreseeable future be able to meet the recurrent liabilities imposed by its present financial structure. Messrs. Willing-Denton and Ratcliffe therefore recommended that a settlement should be reached with the Colonial Development Corporation and the preference shareholders before any further investment was made. It was decided to put off any consideration of such a settlement, and of substantial further investment, for a year, during which efforts should be made to find markets for the Company's salt in North America. As a result of visits made by the Commissioner to the United States and Canada the sales of salt did increase, and it was also clear that a market for upwards of 50,000 tons of salt per annum could be found in North America provided that, in particular, the loading rate of salt could be speeded up to a minimum of 1,000 tons per day, and that a stable output of good quality salt could be guaranteed from year to year. When the trial period given to the Company as a result of the Willing-Denton/Ratcliffe report came to an end, it was decided that further assistance could be given from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, providing that the financial structure of the Company was changed. In response to proposals put forward by the Colonial Office, the Colonial Development Corporation most generously agreed as its contribution to the reconstruction of the Company to waive its claims altogether and to give up its £60,000 debenture and interest. This action by the Colonial Development Corporation cleared the way for the reconstruction of the Company, and the reorganisation should be completed within a short time. The financial structure of the reorganised Company will then bear some relation to the nominal value of the shares issued, and with the injection of fresh capital, which will enable the purchase of modern equipment, the Company should be in a position to sell its salt in the very competitive markets in the United States.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of salt shipments in 1955 and 1956.

SALT SHIPMENTS					
		1955		1956	
Destination		Quantity (Tons)	Value	Quantity (Tons)	Value
Canada		7,390	£9,790	3,480	£4,495
United States		—	—	3,206	2,874
Jamaica		5,701	11,535	5,749	11,769
British West Indies (excluding Jamaica)		320	960	1,897	5,685
Haiti		406	503	459	657
Martinique		—	—	990	2,160
Total		13,817	22,788	15,781	27,640

Fisheries

The Dependency's fisheries have continued to be of great importance, particularly to the Caicos settlements. Between two and three million dried conchs are exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they are sold for an average price of about \$U.S.14.00 per thousand. These conch sales are the basis of a flourishing two-way trade in which vegetables, fruit and other supplies are brought back.

The management of the crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank has again changed hands, and some improvement both in the number and quality of lobsters exported can be expected. The present system of relying on spearing the lobsters is most unsatisfactory and the new company has made a start on experiments with lobster pots.

Other fisheries are undeveloped, sponges remain few and far between, and fresh fish is not easy to obtain in any of the major settlements.

An interesting development has been the large increase in the export of conch shells to Miami where they are used in decorating. In 1956 over 220,000 shells were exported and these were purchased from the fishermen at a cost of approximately £1,800.

Sisal

Sisal continues to be a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful and a considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Output still remains in the neighbourhood of 60 to 70 tons, but it is slowly increasing. The quality of the sisal is poor and it is unlikely ever to be first grade as long as the retting has to be done in salt water. The fibre has a protected market in Jamaica and the price received is sufficient to enable 5d. per lb. of fibre to be paid to the peasant producer in his own village.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the two American bases account for a large part of the available land and also there has been some expansion of building. On Grand Turk there is no great demand for agricultural land, as during the past few years the lack of rain has been sufficient to discourage much planting.

In the Caicos settlements there is no shortage of land, but the soil is of poor quality and here, too, water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these "plantations" as they are called locally. Apart from grants of land made by the Government to the original settlers, most of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the Salt Islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problem is the uncertain rainfall ; in 1956 all the early crops failed in the Caicos settlements. Sisal continues to be the main cash crop.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are killed to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American bases and this has brought about a decided improvement in the quality of the pigs.

MINING

In 1955 an oil exploration licence was granted to the Bahama California Oil Company, and marine seismic surveys were carried out in the waters of the dependency in 1956. The results of these surveys are being studied by the Company.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the Dependency is under the control of the Board of Education of which the Commissioner is Chairman. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature.

There are 13 elementary schools in the Dependency, which serve the six inhabited islands, the school in Grand Turk being divided into senior and junior sections. Education of children between the ages of seven and fourteen is compulsory at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but the scattered nature of some of the settlements precludes such enforcement in the Caicos Islands. There were 1,159 names on the rolls in 1956 and the average attendance was 870. Comparative figures for the past three years are :

	1954	1955	1956
Number on roll . . .	999	1,034	1,159
Average attendance . . .	701	747	870
% of attendance . . .	71	72	76

Children enter the senior school at Grand Turk at 11 years and may be required to pay fees after 14, otherwise education is free. Since 1955 the Board has awarded 12 scholarships, each worth £24 a year, at this school to pupils from the out-islands. In addition, a number of other pupils, six in 1956, are given free places whenever their ability and the circumstances of their parents justify it.

The Headmaster of the Grand Turk School is also Inspector of Schools, and there is an assistant headmaster, seconded from Jamaica,

in charge of the senior section. Arrangements have been made to recruit an assistant headmaster in Jamaica to take charge of the junior section.

Owing to the level of salaries that can be offered, the schools in the out-islands have to rely almost entirely on local talent for teachers; over 90 per cent of the staff are women. A teachers' training course was held in Grand Turk in 1955 and others are planned for 1957, 1958 and 1959.

The policy of training teachers continues. Two teachers were sent to Jamaica for training in 1955, with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. In 1956 their course was extended for a further year, and one additional teacher was sent, the total cost being borne by Board of Education funds.

A new school at the Bight was completed early in 1956 and opened in April.

The grant to the Board of Education from Government funds was £6,500 in 1955-56 and £6,850 in 1956-57.

No facilities exist for technical or adult education. Most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk and at South Caicos. Some of the Caicos schools have small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands is good.

There were no outbreaks of typhoid fever, cholera, amoebic dysentery and other water-borne diseases in the period reviewed. In 1956 there were minor outbreaks of chicken-pox and gastro-enteritis, probably fly-borne, but these responded satisfactorily to treatment and there were no deaths. A total of 458 school-children in Grand Turk and Salt Cay were vaccinated against small-pox as this had not been done for some time.

Facilities for sanitation and disposal of garbage are lacking in most centres, but in Grand Turk the system of garbage collection is being continued.

Attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly in Grand Turk continues to be satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy was remarkably low considering the general nutritional status of the population. Attendances totalled 93 with 81 deliveries; these were carried out by the district midwife in the home. The midwife also does the post-natal examination of babies and mothers.

There is a 16-bed hospital at Grand Turk and a clinic at Cockburn Harbour. Two medical officers, seconded for periods of one year from Jamaica, are stationed at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos. The staff at the Grand Turk hospital consists of a matron, three staff nurses, three probationer nurses and a trained nurse for dispensary and midwifery work. In addition there is a sanitary inspector and, to assist the medical officer at South Caicos, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There are also district

midwives at Salt Cay and in the Caicos settlements. Through the generous agreement of the Jamaica Government, half the salaries of the staff of the hospital at Grand Turk are paid by the Government of Jamaica.

During the period under review regular visits were paid to Salt Cay by the medical officers stationed in Grand Turk. Most of the Caicos settlements were visited in 1956 by the medical officer stationed at Cockburn Harbour.

Government expenditure on medical services was £9,005 in 1955-56 and £10,773 in 1956-57.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare activities have continued to increase during the past two years.

The Boy Scout movement, which was first started in the Dependency in 1952, now has two troops at Grand Turk, four in the Caicos and one at Salt Cay, with a total membership of approximately 100.

The Girl Guide Companies in Grand Turk and Salt Cay are still well supported, and senior guides have been sent to Jamaica for training. The Scouting and Guiding Associations in Jamaica have always taken a most friendly interest in the islands and have given every possible assistance by sending specialized training teams to Grand Turk.

At Grand Turk there is a very active branch of the Jamaican Child Welfare Association, and public clinics supervised by the Medical Officer are held twice a month. When necessary, on medical grounds, free powdered milk is provided for babies whose mothers cannot afford to pay for it. A generous grant from the Jamaican Government subsidizes a milk scheme which operates in the three salt islands, powdered milk being sold for about a quarter of its market value.

The Women's Federation of Jamaica has continued to grow and there is a total of nine branches in the Dependency. The effect of the work of the Federation is most marked in the more isolated settlements in the Caicos where the members play a leading part in all phases of the life of the community, and in fact provide the necessary organization and leadership for many of the social activities so much needed in the islands.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress, and the Pauper Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases.

HOUSING

The general standard of housing on Grand Turk is poor, most of the buildings being of temporary wooden construction and raised off the ground on blocks. The main reason for this is that after the disastrous hurricane in 1945, houses had to be built in a hurry from any materials

available so that some accommodation was available for the homeless population. However, there is a general, if slow, improvement and some families have done excellent work in improving their homes. The American bases have made available some surplus lumber and other material for this purpose.

The decline in the standard of housing at South Caicos is a direct reflection of the slowing down of the salt industry, but here again, during the past year, there has been an improvement. In the Caicos settlements the standard of housing varies and there are some attractive and well-constructed homes.

Chapter 8: Legislation

FIVE ordinances passed by the Legislative Board in 1955 and seven in 1956 received the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. These were as follows :

1955

- No. 1. The Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Education (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance.
- No. 5. The General Revenue Appropriation 1955-56 Ordinance.

1956

- No. 1. The Trade (Surcharge of Duties) Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Supplementary Appropriation (1952-53) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Supplementary Appropriation (1953-54) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The Explosives Ordinance.
- No. 5. The Magistrates' Code of Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 6. The General Revenue Appropriation 1956-57 Ordinance.
- No. 7. The Hotels Aid Ordinance.

The Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955, and the Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955, permit teachers employed in a permanent capacity to be granted pensions. Hitherto teachers have not been eligible for pensions.

The Explosives Ordinance, 1956, is designed to provide adequate control of the possession and use of explosives in any form.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance, 1956, is designed to provide incentive to persons to erect hotels, and allows for duty-free importation of hotel equipment.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend its legislation to the Dependency.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate, normally a Clerk of the Courts seconded from Jamaica for a two-year term. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary enquiry is taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 32 in the Dependency. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

POLICE

The force is commanded by a sub-Inspector under the administrative supervision of the Assistant Commissioner, who holds the rank of Inspector of Police. Twelve members of the force are stationed at Grand Turk and four at Cockburn Harbour. At Salt Cay there is one special constable and in the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable at each of the principal settlements.

As a result of the establishment of two American bases on Grand Turk, it was considered that the force should be strengthened, and through the assistance of the Jamaica Government an Inspector and two First Class constables were seconded from Jamaica in October 1955. There has been marked improvement in the efficiency of the force during the two years under review.

Crime statistics for 1955 and 1956 are shown in Appendix II-VI.

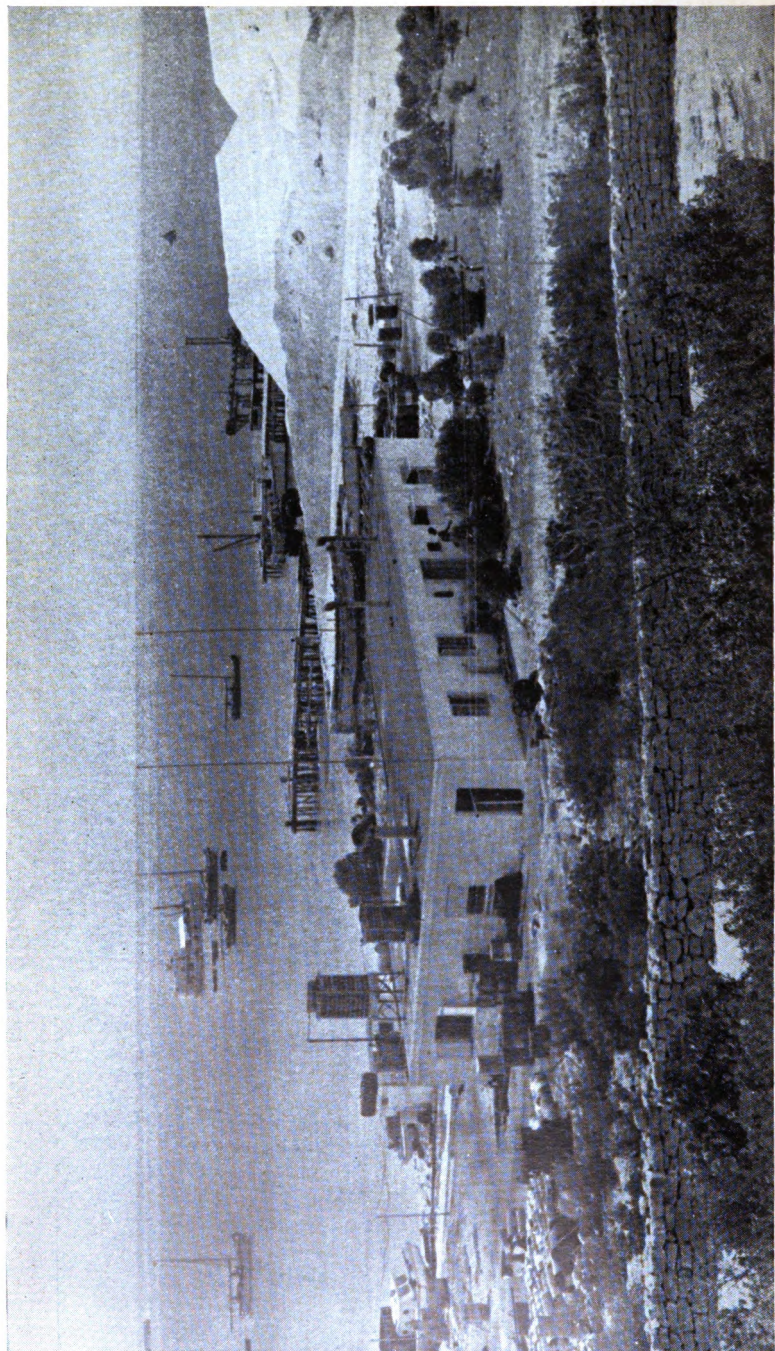
The Prison

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population continues to average about six.

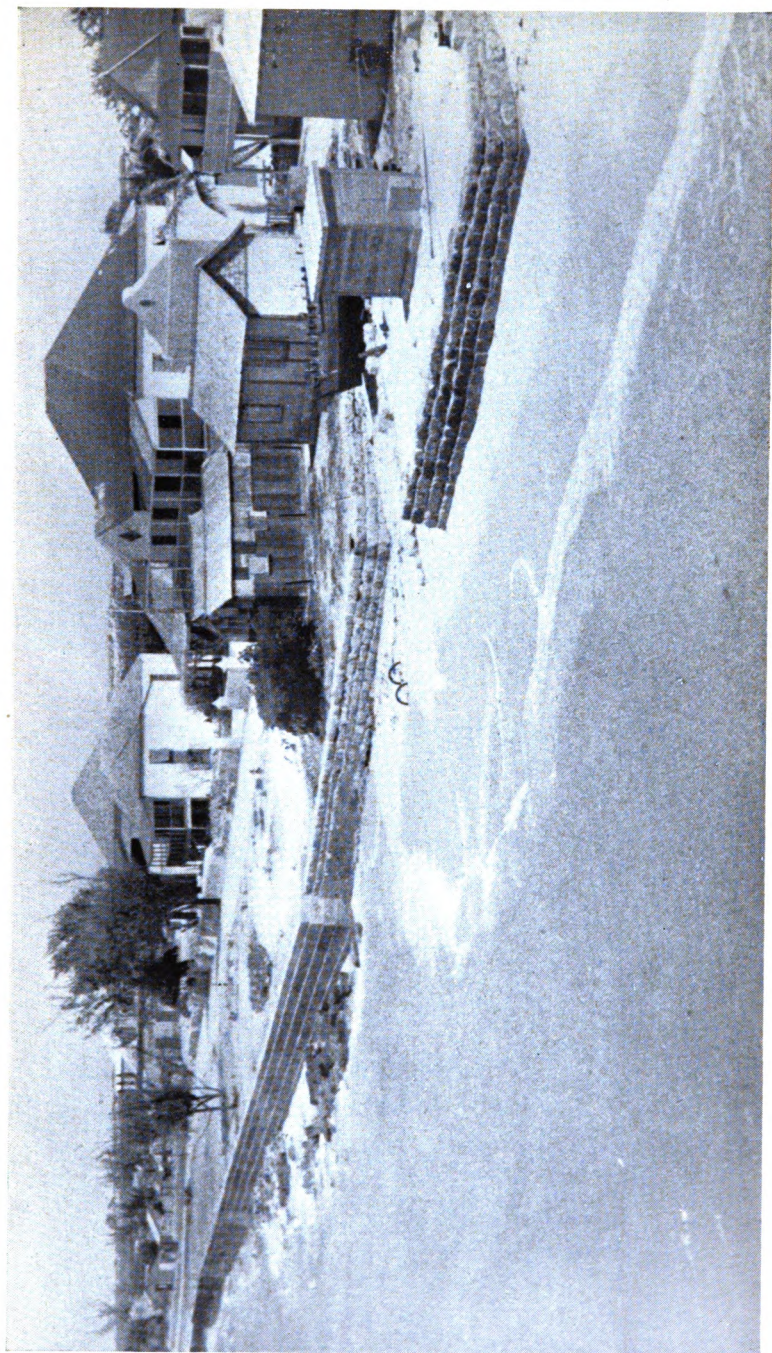
The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects the prison and interviews prisoners



His Excellency the Governor addressing the meeting of the Legislative Board on 9th May 1956 (Gleaner Photograph)



View of Cockburn Harbour



New sea wall at Grand Turk



Landing craft bringing supplies for the United States Base



Bahamas Airways' Heron aircraft in use on Nassau/Grand Turk air service

every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from windchargers, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain-water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh-water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon. There are 19 of these tanks with a total capacity of 803,000 gallons, as follows :

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	11	493,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	4	234,000
Kew	1	40,000
Total	19	803,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation.

A serious drought occurred during 1956 and it became necessary in April to ration water to one gallon per person per day. Despite this, supplies of water were inadequate and it became necessary to reduce the ration to half a gallon per day for a short period. The situation was only alleviated by the generous assistance of the United States authorities in making supplies available and the importation of water from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

The distilling plant at Grand Turk was of very limited assistance as, despite all efforts, it has not worked satisfactorily. The plant is being extensively overhauled and it is hoped to get it in satisfactory working condition.

It is hoped to increase the water storage and catchment areas in Grand Turk and expert advice is being sought.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a Superintendent with a regular staff of two persons, other staff being employed when required.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

THE M.V. *Kirkland*, a vessel of some 300 tons capacity, plies regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk at approximately three-weekly intervals, bringing mail and the bulk of supplies and taking out salt.

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, out of New York, call at Grand Turk whenever there is sufficient freight to warrant this, i.e., approximately every three months.

Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage but do not call, as freight rates for direct delivery to Grand Turk are higher than the rates to Jamaica.

The *Caicos Pioneer*, a motor vessel of some 150 tons capacity, trades regularly between Miami and South Caicos bringing in supplies and taking back conch shells.

There are three ports of entry, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than fifteen feet must anchor at some distance from the shore.

There were five new vessels registered in the Dependency in 1955 and one in 1956, with gross tonnage of 69 and 142 tons respectively, making a total of 126 vessels with 1,881 tons gross. These are mostly sloops built in the Caicos Islands and ranging from 5 to 25 tons. They carry on regular trade with the north coast of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, taking dried conchs and bringing back fresh supplies.

AIR SERVICES

A weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was begun by Bahamas Airways Ltd. in March 1956. This service is subsidised by the Government and operates every Tuesday.

POSTAL SERVICES

During 1955 all mail, air and surface, was carried by sea to Kingston at approximately three weekly intervals. With the inauguration of the new air service in 1956 all air mail is now routed through Nassau. The Post Office dealt with approximately 220,000 postal articles in 1956.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Messrs. Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. also operate a radio-telephone service to Kingston, with connections to the North American mainland. The installations of this Company, including staff quarters, have been completely modernised during the past two years.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Messrs. Cable and Wireless, provides a twice-daily service

between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are also broadcast to the Caicos Settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has 49 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

In 1955 the United States authorities completed construction of a tar macadam road between the Naval Facility at the north end of Grand Turk to the Air Force base at the south end.

During the period under review a number of roads in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour have been reconstructed with local material, with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

There are no motor roads or motor vehicles in the lower Caicos Islands where most travelling is done by sailing boat. There are also a number of tracks suitable for donkey carts.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Dependency. The Government Printing Office prints the official *Gazette* every week. Messrs. Cable and Wireless distribute a limited number of copies of a daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There is one cinema, operated under Government auspices, in the school building at Grand Turk.

There are no Government information services, but by courtesy of Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. a Government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 11.00 a.m. This consists of a five-minute review of local news, shipping and postal services, general news and Government announcements.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° North latitude and 71° and 72°30' West longitude, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been made until recently. Gradual filling in of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank, as described by Dr. H. H. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938), is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos Islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the Bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called Blue Hills, locally) and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The

basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the Bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank." This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (annelida Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier of reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches at Grand Turk, has declined and in 1956 was only 17.16 inches.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour.

Chapter 2: History

The Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, but this theory has now been generally discredited. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in a cave on Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while *en route* for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island," possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at "the Island of Caycos." Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt "at the Island Caycos."

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November, when the salt-raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt-raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, one Andrew Symmers, was appointed in 1766 "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." This was the first regularly established Government.

By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of Southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remain.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered under the Governor of Jamaica by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track." During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damages inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidize a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but with only short-lived success usually. In 1943 arrangements were made for the motor vessel *Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry, to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the motor vessel *Kirkland*, of Honduranian registry, and is operated approximately every three weeks.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated

until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Ltd. who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Ltd., are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Ltd. established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service with Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The last previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947.

In 1952, as a result of an agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the United States, a United States Air Force base was established on Grand Turk for observing experimental guided missile flights. In 1954, under a similar agreement between the two Governments, a United States Naval Facility was also established on Grand Turk.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the Dependency, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways (B.W.I.A.) but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive.

In March 1956, a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Ltd. Special charter flights are operated between Kingston and Grand Turk by B.W.I.A. when required.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Limited to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the guided missile base.

On 31st August 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to the Dependency by a Minister of the Crown though the islands had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) visiting Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban* in which he was serving as a lieutenant.

On the 28th July 1955, a delegation from the U.K. Branch of the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, consisting of the Right Honourable Patrick Gordon Walker, M.P., and Lady Tweedsmuir, M.P., visited Grand Turk.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head-right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. On the 5th March 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by the Acting Governor of Jamaica, and on the 9th April 1951, the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received the exclusive right to export salt from the Dependency. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. E. G. Lewis, M.B.E., held this post during the two years under review.

The laws of the Dependency are passed by the Legislative Board, which consists of the Commissioner as Chairman, three official and eight unofficial members, nominated by the Governor of Jamaica. Subject to the assent of the Governor, the Board exercises full legislative and budgetary powers, but it is the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before it is introduced. Jamaica legislation may also be made applicable in the Dependency but it is customary for the Dependency to be consulted before such legislation is passed.

An executive committee of the Board, consisting of two official and four unofficial members, meets as required to advise the Commissioner on any matters he may wish to refer to it.

The seat of government is at Grand Turk. The Caicos Islands are under the supervision of a District Commissioner stationed at Cockburn Harbour. These islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers; Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales).

These District Boards normally consist of eight persons with the district constable as chairman and the local school teacher as

secretary. Appointments are made by the Commissioner after holding unofficial elections.

Regular touring of the Caicos settlement has been maintained, and during 1955 and 1956 some of these were visited by the Governor of Jamaica.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible local government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Commissioner for approval.

In 1955 unofficial elections were held to fill four new seats on the Legislative Board and as a result of this all the Caicos Islands are now represented. Membership of the Board is as follows :

Official

E. G. Lewis, M.B.E.	(Commissioner) President.
B. K. Monteith,	Magistrate.
E. T. Wood,	Treasurer.
J. W. Astwood, M.B.E.	District Commissioner, Caicos.

Unofficial

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
Irene Roberts	(Grand Turk)
L. G. Been	(Salt Cay)
H. R. Saunders	(Cockburn Harbour)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Blue Hills)
J. A. Hall	(Kew)
P. S. Higgs	(Bottle Creek)
E. C. Hall	(Lorimers)

Sir Hugh Foot, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., Governor of Jamaica, continued his annual visits to the Dependency in 1955 and 1956.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force base and the United States Naval Facility.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

- BROWN, Dr. H. H.** *Survey of Sponge Ground, Jamaica*, Government Printer, 1938.
- Financial and Economic Position: Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.** London, Crown Agents, 1937, for the Government of Jamaica.
- PUSEY, Rev. J. H.** *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands*. Kingston Colonial Publishers Co. Ltd. (out of print).
- TATEM, W. R.** *Report on the Hurricane of 1926 and 1928*. London, Waterlow, 1928, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- WALTON-SMITH, F. G.** *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida*. Caribbean Commission Fishery Series, No. 3. Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- WATKINS, F. H.** *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry, Jamaica*, Government Printer, 1913.
- WATKINS, F. H.** *Turks and Caicos Islands; Report on the Salt Industry*. Cd. 4326, 1908.

APPENDIX I

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during 1955 and 1956

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.56	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D13B(u)	Slaughter Houses	500	250	—
D13B(aa)	Sports Equipment	150	148	—
D1126	Improvement of Educational System in the Turks and Caicos Islands (£17,535)			
	Capital	8,980	8,122	—
	Recurrent	8,555	8,272*	—
	*Local Grant to Board of Edu- cation Fund 1955-56 £6,500 1956-57 £6,850			
	Note: The original C.D. & W. Grant of £21,310 revised to £17,535.			
D1162 & A	Course in Medicine at the Uni-			
& B	versity College of the West Indies for a Candidate (Mr. T. E. Been) from the Turks and Caicos Islands (£2,455)	2,165	2,162	725
	(In addition to the Dependency's contribution of £290 the expend- iture under local resources in- cludes payments to the candi- date's dependents at £60 per annum).			
D1360 & A	Public Health Scheme			
& B	D1360 £34,750			
	D1360A £5,450			
	D1360B £5,810			
	£46,010			
	Capital	38,110	36,608	—
	Recurrent	7,900	7,667	—
D1474	The provision of additional Clerical Assistance to deal with the increased work due to the Development Programme	1,210	1,171	891
D1695	Agricultural Development . . (Original grant of £5,600 re- duced to £2,600).	2,600	1,178	—

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Expenditure to 31.12.56	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D2356	Development and Improvement of roads in the Dependency .	16,520	16,218	—
D2357 & A	Employment of Assistant Com- missioner: Turks Island Salt Company Industry Develop- ment and Marketing .	11,180	9,423	461
D2356	Grant £9,545			
	Loan £5,000 (See below)			
D2356A	Grant £1,635			
	<u>£16,180</u>			
D2590	Construction of Sea Defences— Grand Turk .	5,000	2,308	—
D2603	Purchase and installation of Generator for X-Ray Unit .	600	485	—
D2814	Subsidy for weekly air service covering period of twelve months from 13th March, 1956	2,000	1,200	—
D2852	Salt Industry Marketing .	1,000	523	—
		<u>106,470</u>	<u>95,735</u>	<u>2,077</u>
		Approved Loan		
D2357	Turks Island Salt Company In- dustry Development and Mar- keting	5,000	5,000	—
		<u>111,470</u>	<u>100,735</u>	<u>2,077</u>

APPENDIX II

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1955

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Total dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases					Closed undetected	Pending investigation or trial
			Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Case proved and order made without conviction			
<i>Against lawful authority</i>									
Against public order	98	124	3	12	105	4	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>									
Rape and indecent assault	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>									
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	15	15	1	—	13	1	—	—	—
Assaults	22	22	2	5	14	—	—	—	1
Others	6	7	2	—	5	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>									
Thefts and other stealing	25	29	4	3	17	—	5	—	—
Robbery and extortion	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	2	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
False Pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Receiving stolen property	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Prædial Larceny	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other	12	13	3	2	7	1	—	—	—
Totals	188	220	15	23	169	6	6	1	

APPENDIX III Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1955 B: Number of Persons

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Total			Imprisonment			Fine			Order made without proceeding to conviction		
				M	F	Juv.	M	F	Juv.	M	F	Juv.	M	F	Juv.
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Against public order . . .	124	3	12	72	33	2	-	-	-	71	30	-	1	3	2
Escape and rescue . . .	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against public morality</i>															
Rape and indecent assault . . .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against the Person</i>															
Grievous harm, wounding, etc. . .	15	1	-	7	7	-	-	1	1	5	4	-	1	2	-
Assaults . . .	22	1	5	10	6	-	-	-	-	10	6	-	-	-	-
Other . . .	7	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Against the Property</i>															
Thefts and other stealing . . .	24	4	3	14	2	-	1	5	-	9	2	-	-	-	1
Robbery and extortion . . .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burglary, house and store breaking . . .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
False pretences, cheating fraud, etc. . .	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Receiving stolen property . . .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Prædial Larceny . . .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other . . .	13	3	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	1	-	-
Totals . . .	214	14	23	118	54	2	1	9	1	105	48	-	4	5	2

APPENDIX IV Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1956 A: Number of Cases

Appendix IV

35

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Frivolous, vexatious or false complaint, not accepted	Total Dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases					Closed un-detected	Pending Investigation or trial
				Accused dead or insane	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Con-victed	Case proved and order made without conviction		
<i>Against lawful authority</i>										
Against public order . . .	135	—	141	—	5	46	79	—	—	11
Escape and rescue . . .	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>										
Rape and indecent assault .	3	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
<i>Against the person</i>										
Attempted murder and suicide	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding etc.	9	—	9	—	1	1	7	—	—	—
Assaults	24	1	23	—	—	1	16	—	—	6
Other	3	—	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>										
Thefts and other stealings	37	10	27	—	4	—	13	—	10	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	21	5	16	—	2	1	7	—	5	1
Arson	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Prædial larceny	2	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Other	7	—	8	1	—	—	7	—	—	—
<i>Other offences against the Penal Code</i>										
Forgery and coinage . . .	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	247	16	238	1	13	51	136	—	16	20

APPENDIX V

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1956

B: Number of Persons

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers Convicted												Order made without proceeding to conviction		
				Total	Death	Imprisonment				Corporal punishment				Fine				
						M		F		M		F		M			F	
Juv.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Juv.	M	F			
Against lawful authority																		
Against public order	141	5	46	49	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	25	7	5	
Escape and rescue	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Against public morality																		
Rape and indecent assault	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Against the person																		
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	9	2	1	5	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	
Assaults	23	-	1	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	
Other	4	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	
Against property																		
Thefts and other stealings	17	4	-	11	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	
Burglary, house and store breaking	11	2	1	7	-	1	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Prædial larceny	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Other	8	-	-	7	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	
Other offences against the Penal Code																		
Forgery and coinage	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Totals	222	14	51	97	40	-	1	15	-	1	-	-	-	71	35	9	5	
				-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	

APPENDIX VI

Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1955 and 1956

<i>Offences</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>				<i>Number of Persons Convicted</i>			
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Convicted</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Fined</i>	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	M '55 '56	F '55 '56	M '55 '56	F '55 '56
Against Traffic Ordinance . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against Township Ordinance .	1	36	1	—	1	—	1	—
Against Liquor Ordinance . . .	—	10	—	7	—	9	—	1
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Totals	3	48	3	9	3	11	3	1

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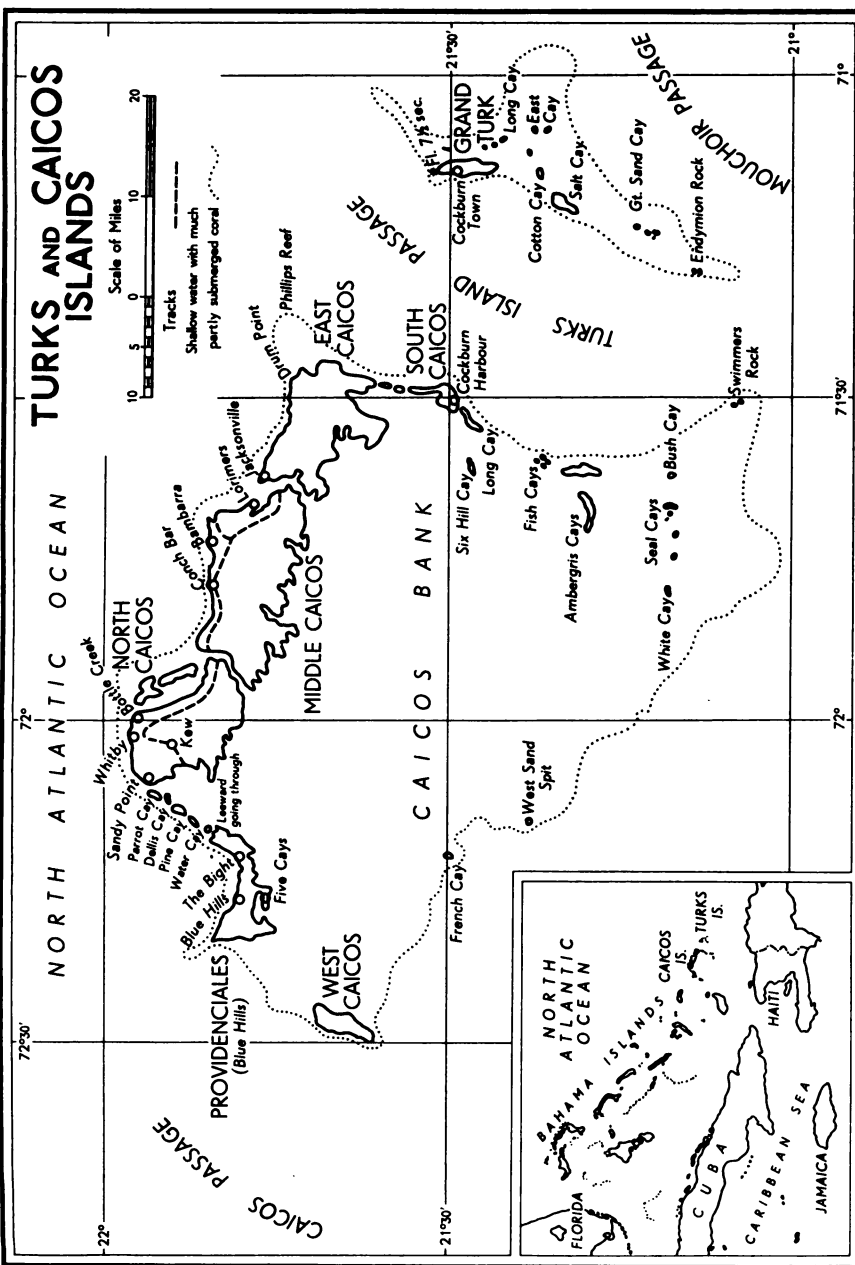
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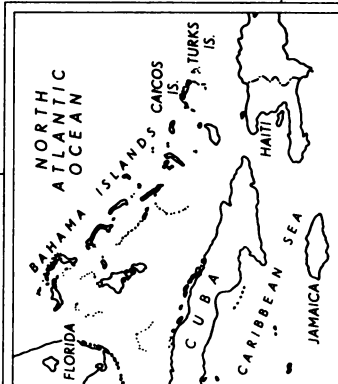
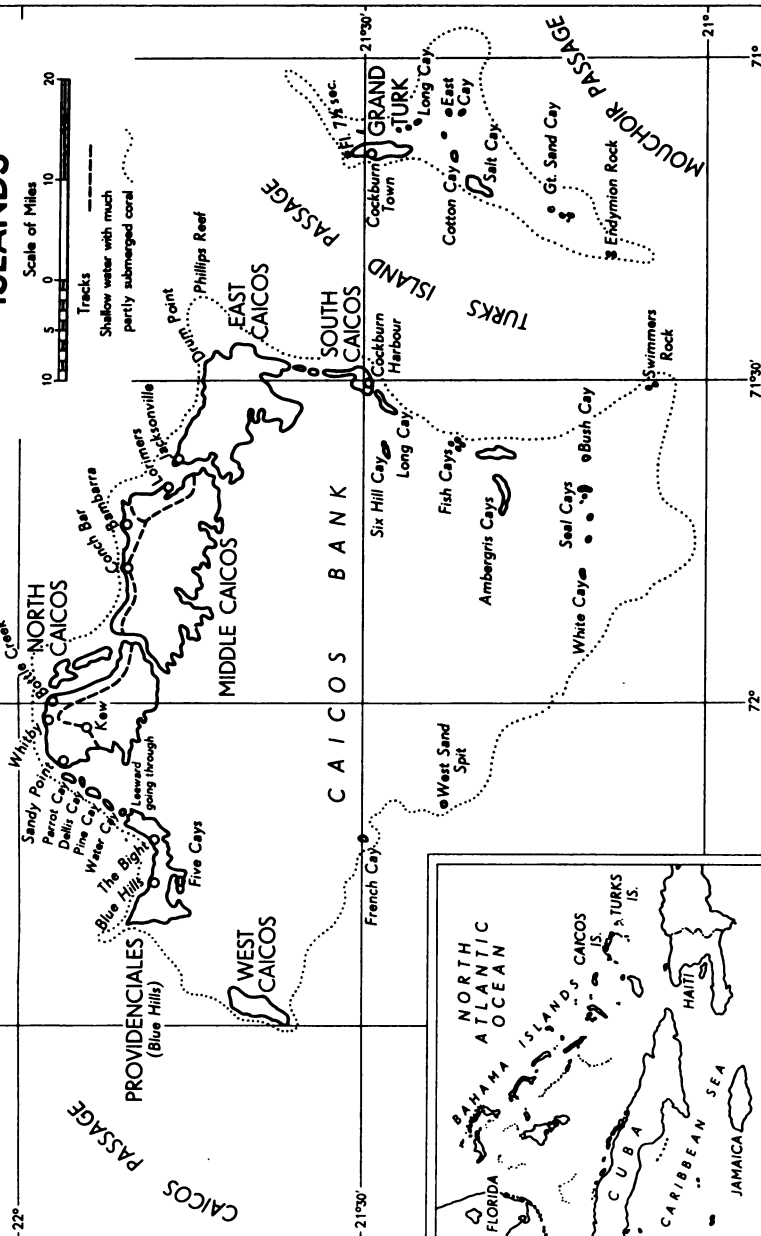
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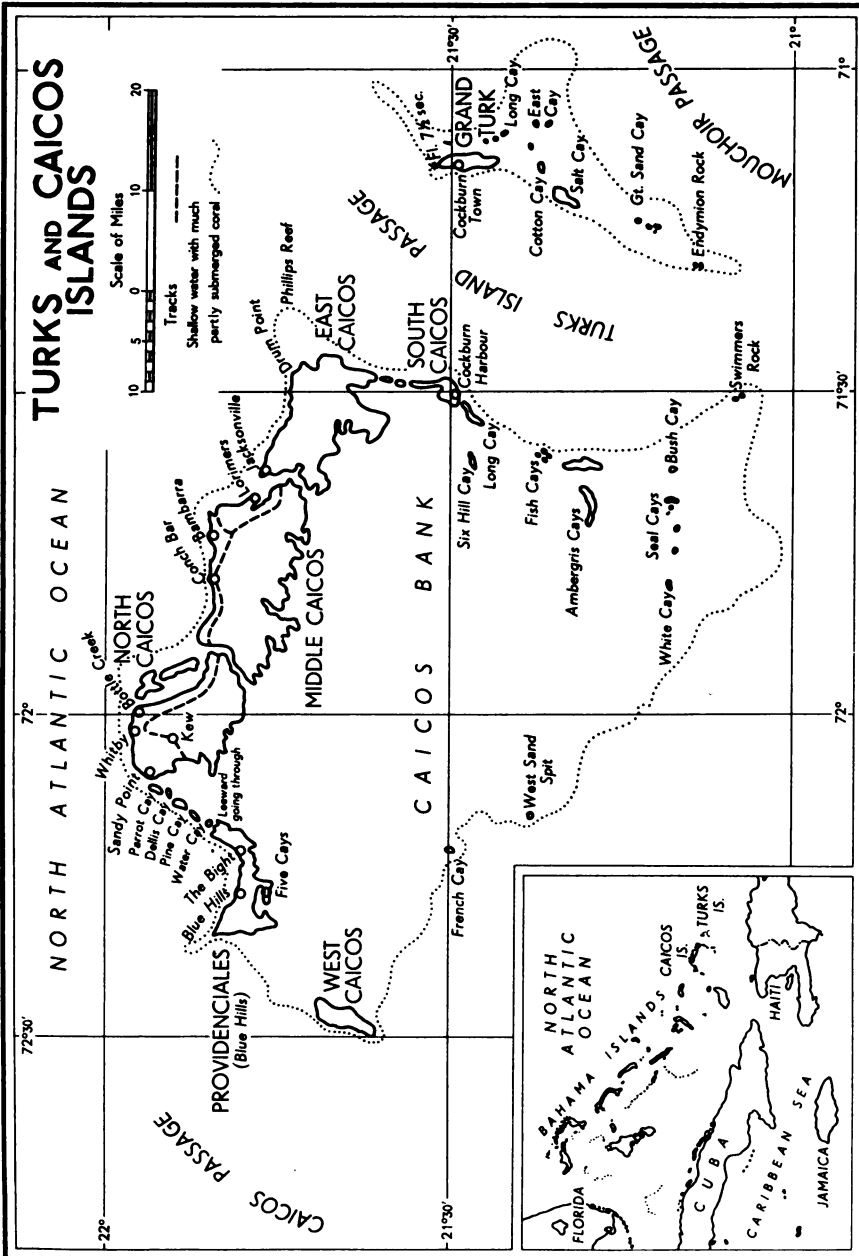
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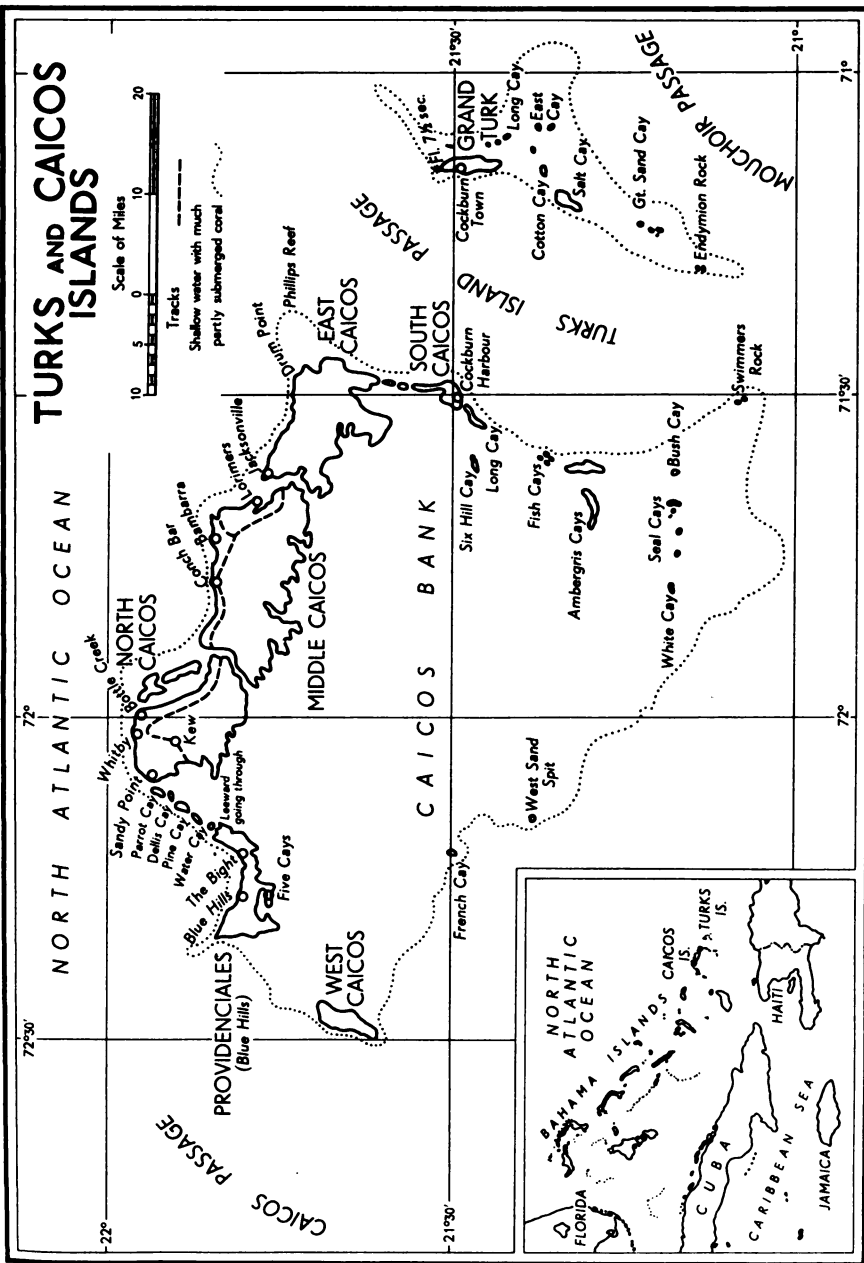
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Review of 1957 and 1958

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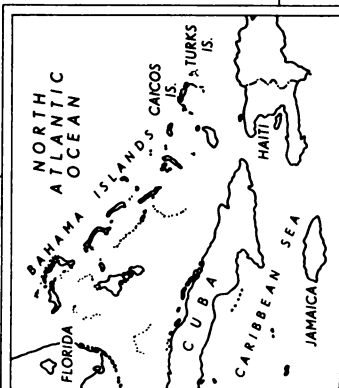
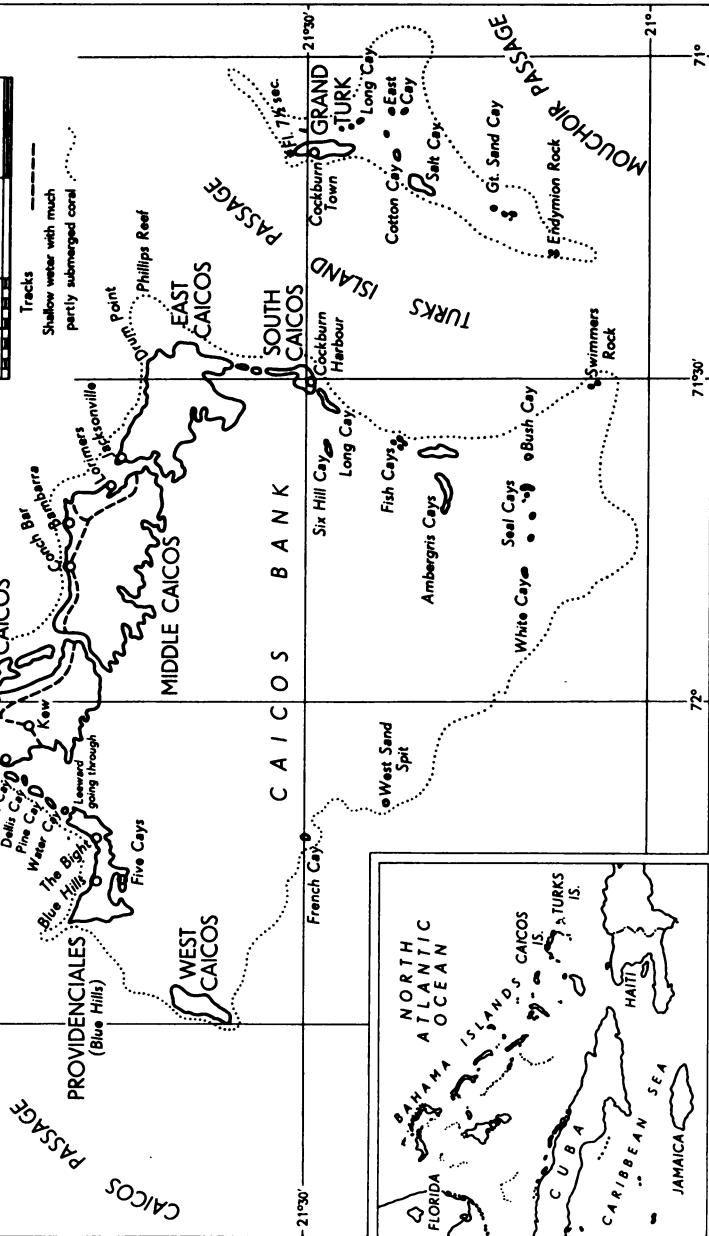
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1951, was operated, it supplied less than half the weekly consumption, and water was again imported. It was fortunate indeed that 8 inches of rain fell in December, 1957, but the annual rainfall for that year was, even so, only 21 inches, 10 inches below the average level. The unpleasant and prolonged experience of this drought led quickly to the enlargement of the water storage facilities at Grand Turk and funds were kindly and promptly provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. A large new water storage tank and catchment area, and extensions to the catchment areas of existing tanks were completed by the end of 1958, except for the laying of pipe lines.

The grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom which began in 1955 continued during the period under review, during which £68,000 was received. Without this assistance, essential services could not have been provided, despite stringent economy and the Special Tax Ordinance of 1957, which levied a tax of 4 per cent *ad valorem* on almost all goods imported into the Dependency, in addition to the already high customs duties, a provision which yet further increased the cost of living in these islands.

In November, 1957, a new series of stamps was issued, the lower denominations of which carried attractive pictures of the species of fish commonly found in the local waters in the hope of attracting fishermen. Revenue yielded by this issue was a little disappointing and most of it was received in December, 1957.

Following the constitutional advance of 1955 when the membership of the Legislative Board was changed by proclamation, increasing the number of nominated members from four to eight and thus allowing the lower Caicos Islands representation for the first time, a further constitutional advance was proposed. The new proposal was for an unofficial majority in a new Legislative Assembly and the establishment of an Executive Council to advise the Administrator, as the Commissioner would then be termed. Full explanations of the changes proposed were made to the public and were well received. While under the new constitution a close association with Jamaica will be preserved, the formal link will be through the person of the Governor, who, in his capacity as Governor of Jamaica, will also be Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.*

District Boards continued to exercise their responsibilities and would have been able to play a larger part in local affairs if it had been possible to allot them more funds, which they are in no position to raise for themselves.

Fisheries and the growing of sisal remained the staple industries of the Caicos Islands. The Caicos Fisheries Inc. increased their export of crawfish, although this is still at a relatively low level, and they experimented with the export of scale fish, principally to Jamaica. Some progress was made by the company in educating the

* The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council, 1959, was made on the 13th May, 1959, and was brought into effect on the 4th July, 1959.

local fishermen in the use of traps which, it is hoped, will replace the destructive spearing of fish, which may destroy the fertility of the banks within a few years. The company paid out substantial sums every week, for the crawfish caught, to the local fishermen, who also supplemented their income by exporting dried conchs to Haiti as in previous years. The production of sisal, the other staple of the Caicos, was at much the same volume as in previous years, and was seemingly unaffected by the drought of 1956/57. Although most sisal is produced by peasants with individual smallholdings and at considerable labour, and although retting in salt water does not produce a fibre of good quality, yet the value of sisal sold was approximately £8,000 in 1958 and provided a very welcome cash income to the Caicos settlements.

The Bahama California Oil Company to whom a licence had been issued in 1955 to explore the waters of the Dependency for oil, were issued a further licence and carried out an additional survey in 1958. The results of their work were being studied at the end of the year.

The first fruits of the programme of sending teachers for training in Jamaica were seen with the return of three trained teachers during the period; more were sent for training. To raise the standard of education will take a long time, because teachers must first be trained, but unless the standard is improved, it is difficult to see how the Dependency can lift itself out of its present depressed circumstances.

The weekly air service, which was started in 1956 between Nassau and Grand Turk and which was subsidised by the Government, continued in operation during the period under review, and was widely recognised as a vital and indispensable link with the outside world, especially for business men interested in the Salt Company or the fisheries, and for the ultimate possible development of the tourist trade. The cost of the subsidy was borne for this experimental period on a grant made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, as was also the subsidy paid for local sloop services carrying mails within the Dependency.

A vital part in the life of Grand Turk was played by the American bases. Excellent relations have always been maintained with the Commanders of both bases who make a major contribution to the community. Besides employing between them about eighty men, they are always ready to give what help they can, wherever need arises. A pleasing illustration of their constant interest and sympathy was made in November, 1958, when the Manager of the Guided Missile Base presented a donation from the Pan American Charities Fund to the Grand Turk Hospital.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-eight also saw the advent of the United States Naval Mobile Construction Battalion No. 7, generally known as the Sea Bees, who arrived to build permanent structures for the Naval Facility at Grand Turk, and to erect a coastguard station

at South Caicos. Their arrival generated more employment and caused a slight increase in prosperity.

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited, who maintain an important station at Grand Turk, co-operated closely with the American bases during the hurricane season to ensure that a close check was kept of all hurricanes coming near the islands, and it was possible to broadcast accurate and up-to-date warning messages to the outlying settlements in the Caicos.

In 1957, a free gift was made of a quantity of milk, butter, and cheese by the United States Government for distribution to school children. The Jamaica Government kindly continued its grant to enable the distribution of free or subsidised milk to be made to the Child Welfare Associations at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, and during the last months of 1958 this milk was also distributed in the Caicos settlements with the help of volunteers from the Women's Federations.

Branches of the Jamaica Federation of Women provided a focal point in the life of the community in most of the settlements; two branches started to build their own meeting house, using their own labour and their own locally raised funds, and both later received grants from the Headquarters of the Federation in Jamaica.

In Grand Turk, the several churches and lodges continued to receive full support from the community. Scouts and Guides were also well supported and great encouragement was given when the Field Commissioner from Jamaica visited during the period.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

The majority of the resources available from the Dependency's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts were devoted to the two major schemes which have already been mentioned, the provision of certain mechanical equipment for the Salt Company to improve the loading rate on ships to 1,000 tons per day and the building of a new water tank and catchment area which the low rainfall of recent years and the continued drought of 1957 had shown was both necessary and urgent.

Among the other important projects financed by the allocation made under these Acts were the payment of a subsidy to the Bahama Air Lines for the operation of the weekly air service to Nassau, and the construction of a sea wall at Grand Turk.

A list of the schemes is set out at Appendix II.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the Dependency at the time of the last census in 1943 was 6,138 made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent	122

It is probable that the population is now approximately 7,000, though no more accurate figures can be obtained until the next population census.

In 1943 the number of females exceeded the number of males by 19.9 per cent. This excess has, if anything, increased during the intervening years and it is estimated that at any given time up to 50 per cent of the adult male population are absent seeking their livelihood abroad. This is particularly noticeable in the Caicos Islands where the ratio of women to men at any public function is frequently more than three to one. The number of locally born persons of European descent has continued to decline, but since the establishment of the United States military bases there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements is roughly estimated to be:

Grand Turk	1,800
Salt Cay	350
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	600
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	1,400
Kew (North Caicos)	400
Blue Hills (Providenciales)	700

The birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, and during the period under review, the excess of emigrants over immigrants was smaller than in previous years. The births and deaths registered during 1957 and 1958 were as follows:

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths	Natural increase
1957	229	75	154
1958	232	80	152

Migration figures were:

	1957	1958
Entered	505	543
Departed	514	537

Thirty-one marriages were registered in 1957 and 21 in 1958.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

THE Turks Island Salt Company, which is the chief source of employment in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, remained in a depressed condition. New mechanical equipment was provided under a Colonial Development and Welfare grant in 1958, and during the latter half of that year the activity in the industry and the level of employment offered was higher than in the recent past. £16,185 was spent on unemployment relief in 1957, but only half this amount in 1958: the work done was largely on maintenance and improvements to the salinas, and labourers on relief work were employed for three or four days a week at 9s. per day.

The number of persons employed on a semi-permanent basis at the two American bases has increased from approximately 50 in 1955 and 1956 to approximately 80, 55 being employed at the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and 25 by the United States Naval Facility. The advent in 1958 of the United States Mobile Construction Battalion No. 7 to build the coastguard station at South Caicos and make permanent the installation of the United States Naval Facility at Grand Turk, has also slightly increased prosperity in the island, although it has afforded little direct employment.

Lobster and conch fishing, together with the production of sisal, continued to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands, but here, as elsewhere in the Dependency, a large number of adult males are absent working in the salt industry at Inagua and the lumber industry on Grand Bahama Island.

The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company recruited 45 seamen in 1957 and 15 in 1958.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wage rates in the salt industry and for unskilled work on roads, etc., continue at 9s. for an eight-hour day. Other rates are as follows:

Carpenters, masons, etc.	. . .	18s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	. . .	15s. per day
Domestic servants, females	. . .	40s. to 120s. per month (usually with rations)

The scale of wages paid for work at the American bases, fixed by agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities, remained at the level agreed during 1956 as follows:

Ordinary Time (per hour)

Group I	Domestic female worker	. 2s. (\$·28) to 2s. 6d. (\$·35)
Group II	Unskilled labour	. 2s. 3d. (\$·32) to 2s. 8½d. (\$·38)
Group III	Stevedoring	. 2s. 6d. (\$·35) to 3s. 1½d. (\$·44)
Group IV	Semi-skilled artisans	. 2s. 9d. (\$·39) to 3s. 6d. (\$·49)
Group V	Skilled artisans	. 3s. 6½d. (\$·50) to 4s. 3d. (\$·60)

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognised by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	Unit	1950		1955		1957		1958	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef, pickled	lb.	1	10	2	10	2	10	2	10
Beans, red kidney	qt.	1	9	2	6	2	6	2	6
Corn	qt.		6	1	0	1	0	1	0
Cabbage	lb.		8	1	0	1	3	1	3
Cornmeal	lb.		5		6½		7		7
Condensed milk	14 oz.		10½	1	6	1	6	1	6
Flour	lb.		5½		6½		6½		6½
Lard	lb.	1	4½	1	11	1	11	1	11
Margarine	lb.	1	5	2	3	2	3	2	3
Meat, Jamaican	lb.	2	0	2	9	3	3	3	3
Onions	lb.		6		10	1	0	1	0
Oranges	doz.	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Plantains	each		2½		4		4		4
Pork, pickled	lb.	1	5	2	0	2	0	2	0
Potatoes, Irish	lb.		4½		7½		7		7
Potatoes, sweet	lb.		4		4		6		6
Powdered milk	lb.	4	10	5	10	5	10	5	10
Rice	qt.	1	1	2	0	1	10½	1	10½
Sugar, granulated	lb.		7		8½		8½		8½

Although the prices of basic foods which are still controlled have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage of suitable housing on Grand Turk and the increased demand brought by the American bases, rents have remained high.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the Dependency, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE strictest economy in Government expenditure, instituted as a result of the financial crisis in 1951 was maintained and the grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom, approved at the end of 1955, was continued. £68,000 was made available from this source to cover the financial deficit during the period under review.

There is no authorised public debt but there was an amount owed to the Jamaica Government of £39,340, on 1st January, 1958. Of this amount £20,553 was owed to the Turks Islands Government by Turks Islands Importers Limited at that date. The £5,000 of shares, previously held by the Turks Islands Government in this Company, were sold to private interests who now operate the Company and have guaranteed repayment of the debt owing to the Jamaica Government.

In 1957, the financial year was altered to coincide with the calendar year to conform with the accounting practice of the Jamaica Government, and 1958 therefore was the first year in which the financial and calendar years coincided.

Revenue and expenditure during the past three financial years and the nine months of 1957 are shown in the following tables.

	REVENUE			
	1955/56	1956/57	1957 (April- December)	1958 (Revised Estimate)
	£	£	£	£
Customs	33,893	33,875	25,250	35,600
Port Dues	951	1,189	935	1,250
Licences and other Internal Revenue	1,173	975	1,116	1,000
Fees of Court and Office	883	797	1,854	1,192
Departmental Revenue	591	460	362	430
Reimbursements	10,383	3,091	956	2,868
Post Office	2,937	2,788	27,894	7,750
Interest	851	1,017	1,004	1,317
Miscellaneous	2,928	2,548	2,296	2,719
Salt Royalty	2,665	51	—	—
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	57,255	46,791	61,667	54,126
Industries	15,448	7,707	3,391	8,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	17,607	6,497	3,458	65,208
Land Sales	—	—	50	—
Sale of 1,000 Ordinary Shares in Turks Islands Importers Limited	5,000	—	—	—
Grant-in-aid of Administration	—	40,000	17,153	40,390
Surplus on 1955/56 Accounts	—	—	762	—
Insurance on Motor Launch <i>Beta Cygni</i>	—	—	5,940	—
TOTAL REVENUE	95,310	100,995	92,421	170,724

EXPENDITURE

1955/56 1956/57

1957
(April-
December)1958
(Revised
Estimate)

Actual

Actual

Actual

£

£

£

£

Pensions	3,610	2,569	1,680	2,276
Commissioner's Department	10,741	9,422	6,515	13,448
Treasury and Customs	5,598	6,277	5,543	7,912
Judicial Department	1,399	2,058	2,338	3,495
Police Department	4,597	5,121	3,957	5,755
Prison Department	1,312	1,463	1,498	2,257
Medical Department	9,005	9,876	6,670	13,022
Paupers and Lunatics	945	928	698	1,075
Education	6,500	6,850	6,357	8,817
Miscellaneous	6,082	5,043	4,344	8,005
Post Office	1,642	2,057	5,592	2,790
Lighthouses	1,105	1,258	831	1,486
Savings Bank	372	378	279	457
Food Control Department	3,905	—	—	—
Public Works Department	1,874	2,171	1,550	2,669
Public Works Recurrent	4,704	3,936	8,908	6,700
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	63,391	59,407	56,760	80,164
Public Works Extraordinary	1,745	1,187	2,751	5,000
Industries	7,046	6,213	5,122	8,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	15,710	6,397	4,302	68,208
Land and Property Purchases	13	327	—	—
Grant to Turks Islands Salt Company	6,664	—	—	—
Drought	—	2,818	1,421	300
Surplus	741	—	—	—
Unemployment Relief	—	13,030	11,408	8,400
Write-offs to Expenditure	—	—	5,230	—
Purchase of New Motor Launch	—	—	12,129	652
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	95,310	89,379	99,123	170,724

A new issue of postage stamps was made on 25th November, 1957. The design of the lower denominations of stamps display fishes common to the Dependency, in order to emphasise its attractions to fishermen. In 1957 the yearly sales of stamps was £27,755, of which £24,000 represented sales of the new issue and was received in December.

Payment of the Salt Royalty, which had been waived from 1st April, 1956, to enable the Turks Island Salt Company to repay amounts due to the former owners of salt stocks taken over in 1951 when the Company was formed, was not resumed; nor was repayment for the salt stocks completed.

Financial assistance from the Jamaica Government included payment of half the salaries of the staff of the Grand Turk Hospital and of the two medical officers, a contribution to the cost of the drugs used, and a grant to the Child Welfare Association to provide subsidised milk for children up to six years old.

No direct taxation is levied in the Dependency, there being neither poll, income nor property tax.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaica Notes	40,000
Jamaica Nickel	100
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the Dependency. The Government Savings Bank held on the 31st December, 1957, a total of £69,216, in 1,958 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £30,853 and £28,662 respectively during the year. On the 31st December, 1958, this Bank held a total of £69,421 in 2,000 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £32,093 and £31,948 respectively during the year.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports and exports during the last six years was as follows:

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports .	125,239	134,959	125,792	143,218	149,157	162,324
Exports .	33,743	48,086	48,648	52,207	53,277	53,331

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past six years:

Year	United Kingdom	Other parts of the Commonwealth	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1953 . . .	23,901	63,997	37,341	125,239
1954 . . .	26,569	70,126	38,264	134,959
1955 . . .	11,384	72,278	42,130	125,792
1956 . . .	8,890	66,242	68,086	143,218
1957 . . .	5,776	79,365	64,016	149,157
1958 . . .	5,572	76,950	79,802	162,324

The main types of imports for the years 1955-58 were:

	1955 £	1956 £	1957 £	1958 £
Food, drink and tobacco . . .	80,546	96,368	99,094	105,492
Raw materials . . .	7,584	10,325	8,401	11,091
Manufactured articles . . .	36,354	35,433	36,687	41,748
Unclassified . . .	1,308	1,092	4,975	3,993

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin:

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Food, drink and tobacco . . .	65	48	54	50
Raw materials . . .	84	56	76	52
Manufactured articles . . .	66	62	62	52
Unclassified . . .	61	50	40	44

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

Year	Jamaica £	Other parts of the Commonwealth £	Foreign Countries £
1951	19,807	21,847	15,318
1952	17,990	3,733	13,786
1953	17,060	1,901	14,782
1954	18,181	7,133	22,772
1955	18,368	10,735	19,545
1956	20,129	10,180	21,898
1957	16,890	10,728	25,659
1958	18,409	8,709	26,213

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Salt:				
Tons	13,817	15,781	21,028	18,156
Value	£22,788	£27,640	£29,870	£28,022
Conchs (dried):				
Number	2,718,700	2,633,650	2,099,650	2,417,350
Value	£9,586	£9,962	£7,308	£8,451
Conchs (frozen):				
Lb.	17,700	—	302	—
Value	£1,156	—	£3	—
Crawfish:				
Lb.	89,120	115,352	101,160	100,400
Value	£7,798	£6,245	£9,161	£8,835
Sisal:				
Tons	62	76	60	65
Value	£6,820	£8,360	£6,300	£6,825
Scalefish:				
Lb.	—	—	12,851	23,607
Value	—	—	£600	£1,198
Sponge:				
Lb.	—	—	300	—
Value	—	—	£35	—

Remittances from abroad were estimated to total £13,000 in 1957, and £13,035 in 1958.

FOOD CONTROL

During the war it was necessary for the Food Control Department to undertake most of the import trade of the Dependency, this being financed by an advance of some £50,000 by the Jamaica Treasury. Relatively large-scale importing, backed by Government prestige, had such obvious advantages that, after the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and it was necessary to continue the operation of the Food Control Department as a trading concern.

In November, 1952, the Food Control Department was converted into a government-owned limited liability company known as Turks Islands Importers Limited. The policy was laid down that all profits should go to the reduction of the Jamaica Treasury advance, and the more speculative aspects of the Department's trading in textiles and dry goods were curtailed.

In 1955 Turks Islands Importers Limited was taken over by private enterprise, who also took over liability for the repayment of the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding. This firm is, however, still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available.

Price control powers are exercised by the Commissioner as Competent Authority under the Jamaica Defence Regulations, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

THE production of salt by solar evaporation from sea-water remains the traditional and the basic industry of the Dependency. Production is carried on at the three salt islands, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production.

Three grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, and the granulated in bags. A fine salt plant, capable of producing salt for kitchen use was brought into operation in Grand Turk in 1954, but difficulty has been experienced in drying the fine salt and maintaining free running qualities. In the latter part of 1958, a few shipments of fine salt were made to Florida for use as a component in cattle feed.

The Turks Islands Salt Company, which took over the ownership and the operation of the salt industry from the private owners in 1951 saw no improvement in 1957 and 1958. For the year ending the 30th September, 1957, the books of the Company showed a net loss of £11,501 for the year and an accumulated loss of £77,470.

There are several reasons for the decline of the salt industry. Salt is a cheap and abundant commodity and can only be produced on a large scale and by mechanical means in order to compete in world markets, whereas the industry in the Dependency is on a small scale, and operates from Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay separated by 22 and 8 miles of sea respectively from the headquarters at Grand Turk. None of the salt islands has an adequate harbour, and nowhere can vessels drawing more than six feet of water come alongside a wharf. Up to June, 1958, bulk loading of salt was still carried on by traditional methods, i.e., by shovels, half-bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and sailing lighters. Salt is still loaded in this fashion at Salt Cay and Grand Turk, and it is impossible by these means to load more than 600 tons a day. As none of the salt islands affords safe harbourage during all phases of the weather, loading may frequently be interrupted by bad weather conditions. Even South Caicos, which offers the largest quantity of salt for shipment, is badly exposed to the prevailing strong south-east wind. Apart from this, ships are reluctant to call for cargoes of salt because the Dependency is too small to offer inward cargoes, and they must needs travel here, for at least some distance, in ballast.

In 1954 the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the collaboration of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, arranged for Mr. E. K. Willing-Denton and Mr. A. Ratcliffe of Imperial Chemical Industries Salt Division to examine and report on the industry. They reported that the Company had no chance of survival without further capital investment of between £35,000 to £50,000, which they recommended should be undertaken if it could be shown that markets for Turks Islands salt existed. In 1957 the decision to make this investment was taken and finance was obtained by means of a generous grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Mechanical equipment arrived and was installed by July, 1958. The equipment consists principally of four tipping lorries, two Weatherill loaders, a stacker, walrus loader, grabs for operating from ships' booms, engines for a mechanical conveyor and for a launch, one towing launch and two barges, to the total value of £35,000, the intention being to increase the loading rate to a minimum of 1,000 tons per day. The first large cargo of over 3,000 tons was shipped in December, 1958, and despite the newness of the method of operation and the untried staff, and despite adverse weather conditions, a loading rate of 1,500 tons was achieved working a 24-hour day.

When this new equipment arrived in July, 1958, the industry was still badly off. The principal production centre at South Caicos had been closed down, and not only the skilled operators, but much of the labour force there had dispersed. Production of salt had been very small since 1951, and the salt which had been sold since 1951 was mostly derived from stocks taken over from the private owners when the Company was formed. By July, 1958, when the new equipment arrived, these stocks had been sold. The immediate concern was then to rehabilitate South Caicos, to collect and train a

labour force, to train operators and mechanics in the use of the Weatherill loaders, stackers and grabs, to assemble lighter men for the barges and to start in earnest production of salt, which during the previous seven years had been allowed to accumulate to a depth of almost two feet in many of the salt pans, and had become so hard that to harvest it became an operation nearer to open-cast mining than to normal salt raking. Nevertheless, by the end of the year, and using the new loaders and trucks in the harvest, a production rate of 1,000 tons per week was achieved at a competitive cost. By this time, however, it was also clear that considerable further finance for working capital would be required to keep the Salt Company in being, and that markets of between 40,000 to 50,000 tons of salt per year would be required if the salt industry was to pay its way and maintain a steady level of production.

Deriving from the recommendations of the Willing-Denton/Ratcliffe report, the Colonial Development Corporation generously agreed to contribute to the reconstruction of the Company by waiving its claims and surrendering its £60,000 debenture plus accumulated interest. The way was then clear for the financial reconstruction of the Company, legislation was prepared to put this into effect, and the agreement of the shareholders to the proposed changes was obtained.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of salt shipments in 1957 and 1958:

SALT SHIPMENTS

<i>Destination</i>	<i>1957</i>		<i>1958</i>	
	<i>Quantity (Tons)</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity (Tons)</i>	<i>Value £</i>
Canada . . .	4,009	5,320	3,421	4,547
United States . . .	8,991	7,944	7,165	8,177
Jamaica . . .	4,901	9,990	5,147	10,476
Federation of The West Indies (excluding Jamaica) . . .	2,286	5,357	1,623	3,572
Bermuda . . .	9	16	Nil	Nil
Martinique . . .	832	1,243	800	1,250
	<u>21,028</u>	<u>29,870</u>	<u>18,156</u>	<u>28,022</u>

FISHERIES

The Dependency's fisheries have continued to be of great importance, particularly to the Caicos settlements. Between two and three million dried conchs are exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they are sold for an average price of about \$U.S.14.00 per thousand. These conch sales are the basis of a flourishing two-way trade in which vegetables, fruit and other supplies are brought back.

The crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank increased slightly the volume of exports of crawfish and made some progress towards

replacing the unsatisfactory system of spearing crawfish by trapping in lobster pots. The company also experimented in the export of scalefish.

Other fisheries are undeveloped, sponges remain few and far between, and fresh fish is not easy to obtain in any of the major settlements.

The export of conch shells to Miami (where they were used in decorating) which began in 1956 ceased in 1957.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the two American bases account for a large part of the available land, and also there has been some expansion of building. On Grand Turk there is no great demand for agricultural land, as during the past few years the lack of rain has discouraged much planting.

In the Caicos settlements there is no shortage of land, but the soil is of poor quality and here, too, water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these "plantations" as they are called locally. Apart from grants of land made by the Government to the original settlers, much of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the salt islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problem is the uncertain rainfall; in 1957 as in 1956, all the early crops failed in the Caicos settlements.

Sisal is the main cash crop and a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful and a considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Output remains in the neighbourhood of 60 to 70 tons, but it is slowly increasing. The quality of the sisal is poor and it is unlikely ever to be first grade so long as the retting has to be done in salt water. The fibre has a protected market in Jamaica and the price received is sufficient to enable 5d. per lb. of fibre to be paid to the producer in his own village.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are killed to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American bases and keep pigs of an improved quality.

MINING

In 1958 an oil exploration licence, which was granted to the Bahama California Oil Company in 1955, was reissued, and marine seismic surveys were again carried out in the waters of the Dependency.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the Dependency is under the control of the Board of Education of which the Commissioner is Chairman. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature.

There are 13 elementary schools in the Dependency, which serve the six inhabited islands, the school in Grand Turk being divided into senior and junior sections. Most children between the ages of six and 14 attend school at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but the scattered nature of some of the settlements precludes such general attendance in the Caicos Islands. There were 1,239 names on the rolls in 1958 and the average attendance was 930. Comparative figures for the past three years are:

	1956	1957	1958
Number on roll	1,159	1,205	1,239
Average attendance	870	892	930
Per centage attendance	76	74	75

Children enter the senior school at Grand Turk at 11 years and may be required to pay fees after 14, otherwise education is free. Since 1957 the Board has awarded 12 scholarships, each worth £24 a year, at this school to pupils from the out-islands. In addition, a number of other pupils (20 in 1958) are given free places whenever their ability and the circumstances of their parents justify it.

The Headmaster of the Grand Turk School is also Inspector of Schools, and there is an assistant headmaster, seconded from Jamaica, in charge of the senior section. Another assistant headmaster was recruited in Jamaica to take charge of the junior section in January, 1957.

Owing to the level of salaries that can be offered, the schools in the out-islands have to rely almost entirely on local talent for teachers; over 90 per cent of the staff are women. Teachers' training courses were held in Grand Turk in 1957 and in 1958 for teachers from the outlying settlements.

The first two teachers given a three-year training course in Jamaica out of funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts returned to the Dependency to take up duties in December, 1957, and a third returned in December, 1958. One was sent for training in January, 1958.

The total expenditure on education was £6,357 for the period April–December, 1957, and £8,817 in 1958.

No facilities exist for technical or adult education. Most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk and at South Caicos. Some of the Caicos schools have small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands is good. There were no outbreaks of cholera, amoebic dysentery or other water-borne diseases in the period under review, except for an outbreak at Grand Turk of suspected typhoid fever in November, 1958, involving six persons, one of whom produced a positive blood culture. A campaign against venereal disease was started in September, 1958, when 18 new cases of syphilis were discovered and treated.

Facilities for sanitation and disposal of garbage were lacking in most centres, but in Grand Turk the system of garbage collection was continued and expanded by provision of an additional 25 garbage containers at street corners.

The attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly at Grand Turk continues to be satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy is remarkably low considering the general nutritional status of the population. Attendances in 1958 totalled 146, with 107 deliveries, of which 93 were carried out by the district midwife in the home. The district midwife also does the post-natal examination of babies and mothers.

An out-patient clinic is held five days a week at Grand Turk. Three thousand six hundred and fifty-four patients were seen in 1958.

There is a 16-bed hospital at Grand Turk and a clinic at Cockburn Harbour in South Caicos. Two medical officers from Jamaica, one seconded for a period of one year and one for five years, were stationed at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, respectively. The staff at the Grand Turk Hospital consists of a Matron, four staff nurses, of whom usually two are seconded for six months at a time from Jamaica, three probationer nurses, and a trained nurse for dispensary and midwifery work. In addition there is a sanitary inspector at Grand Turk and, to assist the medical officer at South Caicos, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There is also a district midwife at Salt Cay and one at Bottle Creek in the Caicos Islands. As in previous years the Jamaica Government paid half the salaries of the staff of the hospital at Grand Turk and they also contributed to the cost of drugs used in the Dependency during 1957.

During the period under review, regular visits were paid to Salt Cay by the medical officer stationed in Grand Turk. Most of the Caicos settlements were visited in 1958 by the medical officer stationed at Cockburn Harbour.

Government expenditure on medical services was £6,670 for the period April–December, 1957, and £13,022 during 1958.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare activities have continued to increase during the past two years.

The Boy Scout movement, which was first started in the Dependency in 1952, now has two troops at Grand Turk, four in the Caicos and one at Salt Cay, with a total membership of approximately 100. The Girl Guide companies in Grand Turk and Salt Cay are still well supported. The Scouting and Guiding Associations in Jamaica have always taken a most friendly interest in the islands. In 1958, the Field Commissioner from Jamaica spent two weeks here, giving advice and encouragement in the training of assistant scout masters and patrol leaders.

At Grand Turk there is a very active branch of the Jamaican Child Welfare Association, and public clinics supervised by the medical officer and the district midwife are held twice a month. When necessary on medical grounds, free powdered milk is provided for babies whose mothers cannot afford to pay for it, and, during the latter part of 1958, free cod-liver oil, malt extract and vitamin capsules were also provided for those in need of them. A generous grant from the Jamaican Government subsidised a milk scheme which operated in the three salt islands, powdered milk being sold for about a quarter of its market value. During the latter part of 1958, the milk scheme was operated in the larger Caicos settlements by volunteer services of the Women's Federation.

The Women's Federation of Jamaica continued to grow and there was a total of ten branches in the Dependency. The effect of the work of the Federation was most marked in the more isolated settlements in the Caicos where the members play a leading part in all phases of the life of the community, and in fact provide the necessary organisation and leadership for many of the social activities so much needed in the islands. Two branches of the Federation, at the Bight and Lorimers, started to build their own community halls by their own labour and with their own funds: when the work had started both received grants kindly given by the Headquarters of the Federation in Jamaica. The branch at Bottle Creek has recently developed a trade in sisal mats and in straw and raffia handwork, which has found a market amongst the personnel of the American bases.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress, and the Pauper Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases.

HOUSING

The general standard of housing on Grand Turk is poor, most of the buildings being of temporary wooden construction and raised off the ground on blocks. The main reason for this is that after the disastrous hurricane in 1945, houses had to be built in a hurry from

any materials available, so that some accommodation could be provided for the homeless population. However, there is a general, if slow, improvement and some families have done excellent work in improving their homes, reflecting the increase in prosperity brought by the American bases.

The decline in the standard of housing at South Caicos is a direct reflection of the slowing down of the salt industry, but, as in the Caicos settlements, the standard of housing varies and there are some attractive and well-constructed homes.

Chapter 8: Legislation

FIVE ordinances passed by the Legislative Board in 1957 and six in 1958 received the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. These were as follows:

1957

- No. 1. The Special Tax Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Supplementary Appropriation (1954-55) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance April to December, 1957.
- No. 5. The Supplementary Appropriation (1955-56) Ordinance.

1958

- No. 1. The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 2. The Real Property Representative Ordinance.
- No. 3. The Inheritance (Family Provision) Ordinance.
- No. 4. The Intestates' Estates and Property Charges Ordinance.
- No. 5. The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance January to December, 1958.
- No. 6. The Supplementary Appropriation (1956-57) Ordinance.

The Special Tax Ordinance 1957 levied a tax of 4 per cent of the value on all goods imported into the Dependency excepting flour and rice, and goods brought in by Cable and Wireless Limited, the Turks Island Salt Company Limited, a person holding a licence to import under the Hotels Aid Law Ordinance and a person granted an exclusive licence under Section 5 of the Fisheries Protection Ordinance.

The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance 1958 introduced new regulations to cope with the increased volume of business in the Savings Bank, there being no Commercial Banks in the Dependency.

The Inheritance and Property Ordinances of 1958 were designed to bring the Dependency's laws into line with modern practice elsewhere.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend its legislation to the Dependency.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate, normally a Clerk of the Courts seconded from Jamaica for a two-year term. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary enquiry is taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 33 in the Dependency. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

POLICE

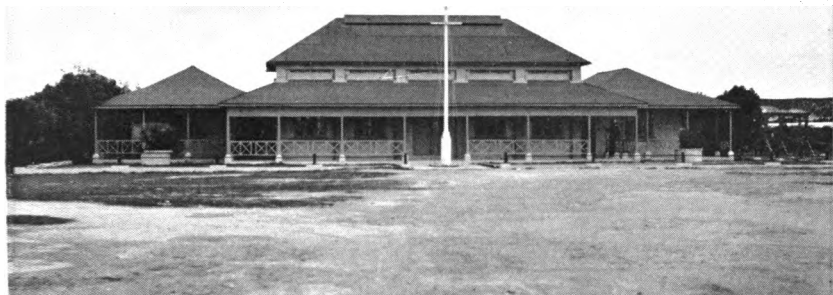
The force is commanded by a Sub-Inspector under the administrative supervision of the Assistant Commissioner, who holds the rank of Inspector of Police. Six members of the force are stationed at Grand Turk and four at Cockburn Harbour. At Salt Cay there is one special constable and in the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable at each of the principal settlements.

The establishment of two American bases on Grand Turk made it necessary to strengthen the force and, through the assistance of the Jamaica Government, a Sub-Inspector and two first-class constables have been seconded from Jamaica since October, 1955, each officer normally serving a period of one year. The force has been able to deal with any incident involving personnel of the American bases with firmness, fairness and despatch, and has thus been an important factor in preserving the excellent relations between the bases and the local population.

Crime statistics for 1957 and 1958 are shown in Appendices III-V.

THE PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate



Militia Building, Grand Turk (Senior School)



Caicos Fisheries Inc., Cockburn Harbour



Remembrance Day, 1958, Grand Turk



Cockburn Harbour from the sea



Methodist Church, Grand Turk



Government House, Grand Turk



Sloops at anchor, Grand Turk



*Presentation of cheque by Pan American Airways to the Hospital,
November, 1958*

accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population averages about six.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects the prison and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from windchargers, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain-water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh-water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per gallon. There are 20 of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,105,000 gallons as follows:

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	12	795,000
Salt Cay	3	36,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	4	234,000
Kew	1	40,000
TOTAL	20	1,105,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation.

The serious drought which started in 1956, when rationing of water to half a gallon a day was introduced, continued until December, 1957. The water ration was raised and kept at a level of one gallon per head per day throughout 1957 but was not discontinued until July, 1958.

The average annual rainfall is about 31 inches. During the first nine months of 1957, the rainfall was only 9.29 inches, and the drought was very severe. Although there were 3.43 inches in September, the drought was not decisively ended until December when 8.05 inches fell. Even with these heavy rains, the rainfall for 1957 was only 21.79 inches.

The distillation plant was in operation throughout the year, but suffered numerous mechanical breakdowns and was expensive to operate. During the latter part of the year it produced an average of 12,000 gallons per week. As the weekly water consumption at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay was 22,000 gallons when rationed, water had to be imported from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America.

It was apparent that the water resources of the Dependency must quickly be improved and plans were drawn up to construct a new catchment area and water tank, with a capacity of 302,000 gallons and to extend the catchment areas of existing tanks. £25,000 was generously provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, and, except for the connecting pipe lines, the work was completed before the end of 1958 under the supervision of an engineer seconded from Jamaica.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a Superintendent with a regular staff of two persons, other staff being employed when required.

A lighthouse is maintained at the northern point of Grand Turk and there are beacons at Sand Cay and Cockburn Harbour.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

THE M.V. *Kirksons*, a vessel of some 300 tons capacity, plies regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk at approximately three-weekly intervals, bringing mail and the bulk of supplies, and taking out salt. This service had been performed by the M.V. *Kirkland* from 1955 to 10th September, 1957, when she sank 15 miles off the Haitian coast. There were 11 passengers, five of them Government officers, but no lives were lost.

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, out of New York, call at Grand Turk whenever there is sufficient freight to warrant this, i.e. approximately every three months.

Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage but do not call, as freight rates for direct delivery to Grand Turk are higher than the rates to Jamaica.

There are three ports of entry, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than fifteen feet must anchor at some distance from the shore.

Three new vessels were registered in the Dependency in 1957 and three in 1958 with gross tonnage of 34 and 379 tons respectively, making the total register 130 vessels with 2,258 tons gross. These

are mostly sloops built in the Caicos Islands, which range from 5 to 25 tons and which carry on regular trade with the north coast of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, taking dried conchs and bringing back fresh supplies. In 1958, the *M.V. Kirk Trader* with a gross tonnage of 354 tons was registered. This vessel was intended to ship salt to Florida and engaged in this trade towards the end of 1958.

AIR SERVICES

The weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk which was begun by Bahamas Airways Ltd. in March, 1956, continued throughout the period under review. This service is subsidised by the Government and operates every Tuesday.

POSTAL SERVICE

All air mail is routed through Nassau every Tuesday and surface mail is carried by sea to Kingston, Jamaica, at approximately three-weekly intervals. The Post Office dealt with approximately 250,000 postal articles in 1957.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited also operate a radio-telephone service to Kingston, with connections to the North American mainland.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless, provides a twice-daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are also broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets, on the daily news bulletin.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has 53 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

There is a tar macadam road between the Naval Facility at the north end of Grand Turk to the Air Force base at the south end which was built by the United States authorities in 1955.

Local roads in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour are surfaced with scale from the salt ponds. This provides a hard and durable surface, although it hastens the deterioration of motor vehicles. There are no motor roads or motor vehicles in the lower Caicos Islands, where most travelling is done by sailing boat, but which have a number of tracks suitable for donkey carts.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals published in the Dependency. The Government Printing Office prints the official Gazette every week. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited distribute a limited number of copies of the daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There are no Government information services, but by courtesy of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited a Government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 11.00 a.m. This consists of a five-minute review of local news, shipping and postal services, general news and Government announcements, and is eagerly awaited each day in the Caicos settlements who regard it as their principal contact with the outside world.

A cinema was operated under Government auspices at Cockburn Harbour during 1958, and the United States Naval Facility kindly allowed the public at Grand Turk to see their film shows free of charge.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° North latitude and 71° and 72° 30' West longitude, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been made until recently. Gradual filling of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank, as described by Dr. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938) is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos Islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called Blue Hills, locally) and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush". The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually

mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank". This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (annelida Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier of reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches at Grand Turk, has declined and in 1957 was only 21·79 inches, 8·05 inches of which fell in December.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour.

Chapter 2: History

THE Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, and this theory which was once discredited has recently been put forward again. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in a cave in Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while *en route* for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island", possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at

“the Island of Caycos”. Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt “at the Island Caycos”.

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November, when the salt-raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt-raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, one Andrew Symmers, was appointed in 1766 “to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty”. This was the first regularly established Government.

By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of Southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remains.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. The Dependency is now administered under the Governor of Jamaica by a Commissioner assisted by a Legislative Board.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the “hurricane track”. During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928 and 1945, the most severe being those of 1866 and 1945. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but with only shortlived success usually. In 1943 arrangements were made for the motor vessel *Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry, to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the motor vessel *Kirkland*, of Honduranian registry and, in 1957, by the M.V. *Kirksons*. (See above, p. 24.)

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station.

In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Limited who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Limited are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Limited established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service with Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December, 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947.

In 1952, as a result of an agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the United States, a United States Air Force base was established on Grand Turk for observing experimental guided missile flights. In 1954, under a similar agreement between the two Governments, a United States Naval Facility was also established on Grand Turk.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the Dependency, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways (B.W.I.A.) but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive.

In March, 1956, a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Limited. Special charter flights were operated between Kingston and Grand Turk by B.W.I.A. when required.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Limited to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the guided missile base.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones, paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to the Dependency by a Minister of the Crown though the islands had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later Duke of Kent) having visited Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban* in which he was serving as a lieutenant.

On the 28th July, 1955, a delegation from the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, consisting of the Right Honourable Patrick Gordon Walker, M.P., and Lady Tweedsmuir, M.P., visited Grand Turk.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head-right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. On the 5th March, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by the Acting Governor of Jamaica, and on the 9th April, 1951, the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received the exclusive right to export salt from the Dependency. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. E. G. Lewis, O.B.E., held this post until August, 1958, when he was relieved by Mr. G. C. Guy, M.B.E.

The laws of the Dependency are passed by the Legislative Board, which consists of the Commissioner as Chairman, three official and eight unofficial members, nominated by the Governor of Jamaica. Subject to the assent of the Governor, the Board exercises full legislative and budgetary powers, but it is the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before it is introduced. Jamaica legislation may also be made applicable in the Dependency but it is customary for the Dependency to be consulted before such legislation is passed.

The seat of government is at Grand Turk. The Caicos Islands are under the supervision of a District Commissioner stationed at Cockburn Harbour. These islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales).

These District Boards normally consist of eight persons with the district constable as chairman and the local school teacher as secretary. Appointments are made by the Commissioner after holding unofficial elections.

Regular touring of the Caicos settlements has been maintained, and during 1957 some of these were visited by the Governor of Jamaica.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible local government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Commissioner for approval.

In 1955 unofficial elections were held to fill four new seats on the Legislative Board and as a result of this all the Caicos Islands are now represented. Membership of the Board at the end of 1958 was as follows:

Official

G. C. Guy, M.B.E.	(Commissioner) President.
W. B. Willkie	Magistrate
E. T. Wood	Treasurer
J. W. Astwood, M.B.E.	District Commissioner, Caicos.

Unofficial

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
Irene Roberts	(Grand Turk)
L. G. Been	(Salt Cay)
H. R. Saunders	(Cockburn Harbour)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Blue Hills)
J. A. Hall	(Kew)
P. S. Higgs	(Bottle Creek)
E. C. Hall	(Lorimers)

The Governor of Jamaica, Sir Hugh Foot, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., visited the Dependency in April, 1957, and visited some of the Caicos settlements. The Acting Governor, Mr. Stow, C.M.G., visited Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay in August, 1957, and Sir Hugh Foot paid a brief farewell visit in November, 1957.

The new Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., made his first visit to Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour in March, 1958, and paid a second visit to Grand Turk in August.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force base and the United States Naval Facility.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

BROWN, Dr. H. H. *Survey of Sponge Ground*, Jamaica, Government Printer, 1938.

Financial and Economic Position: Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. London, Crown Agents, 1937, for the Government of Jamaica.

PUSEY, Rev. J. H. *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands*. Kingston, Colonial Publishing Co. Ltd., 1897 (out of print).

TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricane of 1926 and 1928*. London, Waterlow, 1928, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

WALTON-SMITH, F. G. *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida*. Caribbean Commission Fishery Series, No. 3. Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry*, Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.

WATKINS, F. H. *Turks and Caicos Islands; Report on the Salt Industry*. Cd. 4326, 1908.

APPENDIX I

*Public Statement on New Constitutions for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, 10th October, 1958**

THE present constitution of the Cayman Islands, which was established by an Act of the Imperial Parliament in 1863, provides for an Assembly composed of 27 Justices of the Peace and 27 elected Vestrymen. This Assembly has the power to pass laws subject to the consent of the Governor of Jamaica. There is also an Advisory Executive Council which has at present no constitutional sanction.

2. The constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which was established by the Queen in Council in 1873, provides for a Legislative Board consisting at the present time of the Commissioner, three official members and eight unofficial members. There is no provision for an Executive Council.

3. After discussion with the Government of Jamaica, and with representatives of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, it was decided in 1957 that the time had come to provide up-to-date constitutions for both of the Dependencies.

4. By an Act of Parliament entitled the "Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands Act, 1958", to which Her Majesty the Queen assented on the 20th February, 1958, Her Majesty was empowered to make provision for the government of the Cayman Islands and of the Turks and Caicos Islands by Order in Council. These Orders in Council have now been drafted.

5. It is proposed that there should be a separate Order in Council for each Dependency to provide for a constitution which would follow the pattern of other small territories in the West Indies. The link in future will be with the Governor, rather than the Government of Jamaica. At present the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands come within the terms of the Jamaica (Constitution) Order in Council, 1944, and amendments thereto, but these Orders in Council will cease to have effect when the final Jamaican Constitution, which will make no provision for the government of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, comes into operation. It is desirable that the new Constitutions for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands should be brought into operation at the same time as the new Constitution of Jamaica. The exact date of this cannot yet be stated, but it is anticipated that it will be during the coming year, 1959.

* The statement was issued in the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and in Jamaica.

6. It is contemplated that the main provisions of the new Constitutions, which will be the same for both Dependencies, will be:

- (a) In place of the present Cayman Islands Assembly of Justices and Vestry and the Turks and Caicos Islands Legislative Board, there will be created Legislative Assemblies for both Dependencies. The composition of the Legislative Assemblies will be:

The Administrator (the proposed new title for the Commissioner), who shall preside,

Three official members to be appointed by the Governor,

Three nominated members to be appointed by the Governor,

Nine elected members.

Before elections can take place, both Dependencies will have to pass Electoral Laws defining the Constituencies and providing for the procedure necessary for holding elections. It is proposed that there should be universal adult suffrage and voluntary registration of voters, and that the ratio of elected members to population should be approximately 1:1,000 or part of 1,000. It is also proposed that the elections to the Legislative Assemblies should take place every three years.

- (b) The creation of an Executive Council in each Dependency, the composition of which will be:

The Administrator,

Two official members appointed by the Governor,

One nominated member to be appointed by the Governor from among the nominated members of the Legislative Assembly,

Two elected members to be elected by the elected and nominated members of the Assembly from among the elected members of the Assembly.

The Executive Council will be advisory to the Governor and to the Administrator. The Governor of Jamaica will be the Governor of each Dependency, and will preside at meetings of the Executive Council when he is in the Dependency if he thinks fit. Provision is also included for the elected members of the Executive Council to be removed by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly passed by not less than two-thirds of all of the nominated and elected members of the Assembly.

- (c) The Governor will have the reserved powers usual in this type of constitution which he will be permitted to exercise in the interests of public order, public faith or good government. The Governor will also exercise the power of pardon in capital cases, after consulting the Executive Council. The Governor will be able to delegate certain of his powers to the Administrator, but there are certain powers which he

will not be able to delegate, such as the grant of land, the power of pardon, the power to constitute offices, and the appointment and dismissal of senior officers.

(d) The Legislature of Jamaica will have power to make laws for the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands as at present, provided that no new Jamaican law will apply to the Dependencies unless:

- (i) it is in express terms made applicable thereto; *and*
- (ii) the Governor has declared by Proclamation that the particular law shall apply to the Dependency, with such modifications as he may specify. The Governor will have power to cancel or amend such Proclamation if the need should arise at a later date.

The application to the Cayman Islands or the Turks and Caicos Islands of Jamaican laws enacted in the future thus rests solely with the Governor who will consult the Executive Council of the Dependency before making any such Proclamation. Thus, the representatives of the Dependencies will always be consulted before a Jamaican law is applied in the Dependency.

Administratively, the practice has always been for the Dependency to be consulted before a Jamaican law is applied to it, and this practice will continue, so that there will be both constitutional and administrative safeguards.

7. Laws in force immediately before the new Constitutions come into operation will remain in force, except so far as provision may be made for modifying, adapting or repealing any law to accord with the new constitutional position.

APPENDIX II

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1957 and 1958

<i>Scheme number</i>	<i>Title of scheme</i>	<i>Approved grant</i>	<i>Expenditure to 31.12.58</i>	
			<i>C.D. & W. funds</i>	<i>Local resources</i>
		£	£	£
D2357A & B	Employment of Assistant Commissioner: Turks Islands Salt Company industry development and marketing	18,882	17,462	461
D2590	Construction of sea defences—Grand Turk	5,000	3,915	—
D2603	Purchase and installation of generator for X-ray unit	600	498	—
D2658 (76)	Training of Senior Treasury Assistant of the Turks and Caicos Islands to fit him for the appointment as Internal Auditor	140	121	—
D2658 (108)	Training of Junior Treasury Assistant of the Turks and Caicos Islands to fit him for the appointment as assistant to the Internal Auditor	140	133	—
D2658 (205)	Training of Stanley Emmanuel Been at Mico Training College	165	140	—
D2658 (206)	Training of Oswald Arthur Smith at Mico Training College	165	128	—
D2814 & A & B	Subsidy for weekly air service covering period of 36 months from 13th March, 1956	2,548	2,248	—
D2852	Salt industry marketing	1,000	760	—
D2928	Refresher courses for teachers	700	533	—
D3230	Sloop service to Caicos Islands	250	124	124
D3269	Improvement in water storage and catchment areas, Turks and Caicos Islands	25,000	27,616*	—
D3370	Visit of Commissioner to the United Kingdom in his capacity as Managing Director of the Turks Islands Salt Company, to investigate the possibility of improving the salt loading rates	476	476	—
<i>Carried forward:</i>		55,066	54,154	585

* Application submitted for excess expenditure.

Scheme number	Title of scheme	Approved grant	Expenditure to 31.12.58	
			C.D. & W. funds	Local resources
	<i>Brought forward</i>	£ 55,066	£ 54,154	£ 585
D3382	Re-equipment of Turks Islands Salt Company	35,200	29,102	—
D3448	Provision of equipment for clinics	400	—	—
D3513	Provision of nurses' quarters at the Grand Turk Hospital	5,000	115	—
		95,666	83,371	585
		<i>Approved Loan</i>		
D3428	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Company . <i>Note:</i> Former loan of £5,000 under Scheme D2357 converted to grant.	5,000	5,000	—
		100,666	88,371	585

APPENDIX III

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1957

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Total dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases					
			Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Case proved and order made without conviction	Closed undetected	Pending Investigation or trial
<i>Against lawful authority</i>								
Against public order . . .	93	113	17	—	96	—	—	—
Escape and rescue . . .	3	3	—	—	3	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>								
Rape and indecent assault . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>								
Attempted murder and suicide . . .	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc. . .	13	13	3	—	9	—	1	—
Assault . . .	17	17	2	—	15	—	—	—
Others . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>								
Thefts and other stealings . . .	21	21	—	—	13	—	8	—
Burglary, house and store breaking . . .	18	18	—	—	11	—	7	—
Arson . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prædial larceny . . .	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Others . . .	5	7	2	—	5	—	—	—
TOTAL . . .	172	194	24	—	154	—	16	—

B: Number of Persons

	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted							
				Total		Imprisonment		Fine		Order made without proceeding to conviction	
				M. F.	Juv. M. F.	M. F.	Juv. M. F.	M. F.	Juv. M. F.	M. F.	Juv. M. F.
Against lawful authority											
Against public order	113	17	—	54	42	30	16	27	23	—	—
Escape and rescue	3	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
Against public morality											
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against the person											
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	15	3	—	8	4	5	2	4	1	—	—
Assaults	17	2	—	10	5	6	1	5	3	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against property											
Thefts and other stealings	21	—	8	8	5	6	2	4	1	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	18	—	7	9	2	7	4	—	—	—	—
Prædial larceny	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Others	7	2	—	4	1	2	—	3	—	—	—
Other offences against the Penal Code											
Forgery and coinage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	195	24	15	96	60	57	25	45	28	—	—

APPENDIX IV

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1958

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Frivolous, vexatious or false complaint, not accepted	Total dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases					Closed un-detected	Pending investigation or trial
				Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Case proved and order made without conviction	Accused dead or insane		
Against lawful authority	70	3	84	15	6	55	7	1	—	—
Against public order	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	3	—	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Against public morality										
Rape and indecent assault										
Against the person										
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	18	—	18	3	1	12	—	—	—	2
Assaults	14	—	14	—	1	10	—	1	—	2
Others	8	—	8	2	1	5	—	—	—	—
Against property										
Thefts and other stealings	24	1	23	5	—	10	—	—	5	3
Burglary, house and store breaking	7	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	2	4
Arson	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	8	—	10	4	—	6	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Penal Code	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery and coinage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	155	4	170	33	9	100	7	2	7	12

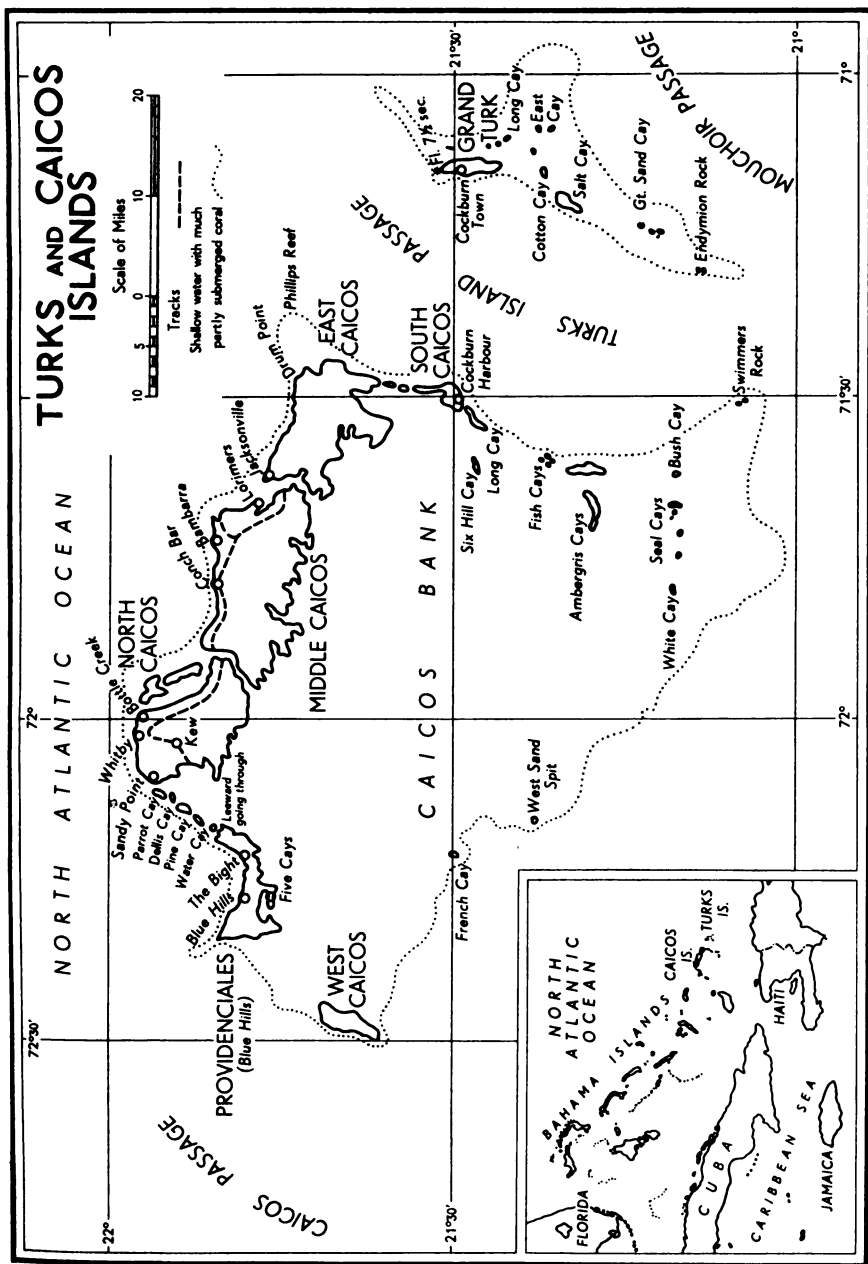
B: Number of Persons

Crime	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquit- ted or dis- charged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted												Order made without proceeding to conviction					
				Total		Death		Imprison- ment		Corporal punishment		Fine									
				Juv.		M		F		Juv.		M		F		Juv.		M		F	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Against lawful authority	84	15	6	40	15	1	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	21	12	—	—	7	—		
Against public order .	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—		
Escape and rescue .																					
Against public morality																					
Rape and indecent																					
assault	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Against the person																					
Grievous harm, wound-																					
ing, etc.	18	3	1	9	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—		
Assaults	14	—	1	7	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—		
Other	8	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—		
Against property																					
Thefts and other steal-																					
ings	23	5	—	10	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—		
Burglary, house and																					
store breaking .	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Prædial larceny . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Other	10	4	—	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—		
Other offences against																					
the Penal Code																					
Forgery and coinage .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL	169	33	9	76	24	2	36	5	—	—	—	—	—	40	20	—	—	7	—		

APPENDIX V

Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1957 and 1958

Offences	Number of Cases				Number of Persons Convicted					
	Total 1957 1958		Convicted 1957 1958		Discharged 1957 1958		Total M '57 '58 F '57 '58		Fined M '57 '58 F '57 '58	
Against Traffic Ordinance . . .	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	—
Against Township Ordinance . .	19	—	18	—	1	—	12	—	12	—
Against Liquor Ordinance . . .	—	12	—	10	—	2	—	5	—	1
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
TOTAL	19	18	18	16	1	2	12	11	6	5





16rB

Turks & Caicos Islands

1959 and 1960

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
FIVE SHILLINGS NET

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Report for the years
1959 and 1960

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1961

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PART I

Review of 1959 and 1960

THE years 1959 and 1960, in contrast to those of the previous decade, were marked by rising prosperity. More money was in circulation and its effect could be seen in the improved appearance and decoration of houses as well as in the improved supply of goods kept in the shops. But this was prosperity only in relation to the depression of previous years and its basis remained uncertain. There was a great increase in the grant-in-aid, of which a large part was at once put into circulation by stimulating the activity of, and providing a high level of employment in, the Turks Island Salt Company, which is Government controlled. In addition, the Government prosecuted a vigorous programme for the recruitment of seamen and other workers for employment overseas; and a new trade was developed in the export of conch shells for the tourist trade in Florida.

In other ways also, 1959 and 1960 were crowded years. For the first time elections were held on a basis of universal adult suffrage, and a new constitution was introduced which provided for an unofficial majority in the Legislative Assembly, and for an Executive Council to advise the Administrator. The salaries of the Civil Service were revised. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant for further agricultural development in the Caicos Islands was introduced. A new census was taken for the first time since 1943: the position of these Islands in the new Federation of the West Indies was discussed with a sense of increasing urgency. The public morale which was already improving was further heightened by the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in March, 1960. A long standing dream was fulfilled when the islands sent a cricket team to Nassau in the summer of 1960. But with all its successes the period closed with hurricane "Donna," a very severe and destructive hurricane, which ravaged the Caicos Islands making approximately half their population homeless and destroying much of their livelihood.

Demonstrable evidence of the relative rise in prosperity is provided by the figures of the amounts due to depositors on the 31st December by the Government Savings Bank—the only banking facility in the islands. From 1950 to 1958 these amounts had fluctuated from £65,000 to £70,000 compared with £79,599 in 1959 and £92,742 in 1960, an unprecedented figure. Again, the total value of imports rose from £162,000 in 1958 to £189,000 in 1959 and thence to £217,000 in 1960. But there was also visual evidence of improving conditions in the

slow but general lifting of the atmosphere of depression: crowds of idlers were less often seen on street corners, there was an air of cheerfulness and greater hope: many appeared better dressed and many houses were improved and repainted.

The most important single reason for this increase in prosperity was the additional activity of the Salt Company, the traditional and basic industry. There was a very generous increase in the grant-in-aid which enabled a direct subsidy of £12,500 to be paid in each of the years under review and which provided as well unemployment relief funds, some of which were used in the industry. Production could thus be increased to 30,000 tons in 1959, and there was an increase in sales in 1960 from 20,000 to 30,000 tons. Throughout the period under review, bulk loading facilities which enabled ships to be loaded at a rate of 1,000 tons per day were maintained at Cockburn Harbour, and in 1960 bulk loading facilities were also installed at Salt Cay by building a pier from which barges could be loaded direct by tipping trucks. A new technique for the processing and treatment of fine salt was developed, and throughout the period an average of 30 tons a month was sent to Jamaica. This development of a new product, fine salt, much more valuable and potentially profitable than coarse salt, is most promising for the future operation of the Company, which looks forward also to increasing the use both of its fine and of its coarse salt in the countries of the Federation of The West Indies. The greater activity of the Company however was carried on at a considerable loss, and, so long as this continues, the future of the industry must be regarded as insecure. Hurricane "Donna" in September, 1960, did substantial damage to the Company's installations and to the salinas, from which it will take long to recover.

Using all possible means to combat the unemployment problem of the previous decade, the Government arranged to recruit seamen for National Bulk Carriers Inc., a large American shipping concern: during the period under review, an average of one hundred seamen was employed at any one time by this Company and their absence from the islands made a great difference to the unemployment problem. The remittances these men sent home made a substantial contribution to the money in circulation. The Government also recruited stevedores to work at Freeport in Grand Bahama Island, as well as large numbers of workers for an agricultural project in Andros in the Bahamas, both in 1959 and in 1960. This recruitment programme was in general so successful that at times there was a shortage of labour in the salt-producing islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour,

and the Salt Company found itself in competition with these overseas employers for the best available labour.

Work was also available at the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and the United States Naval Facility.

In 1959 a new source of earnings opened up. The Bahamas forbade the export of conch shell, for which there is a consistent demand in Florida for the tourist trade, and for interior decoration, and as a result, a considerable quantity of shells was exported from these islands. Early in 1960, in order to be able to control the trade should it be necessary as a conservation measure, the Government issued an exclusive licence for the export of conch shell. To the Caicos fishermen, this trade brought a significant improvement in earnings for they were still able to extract the conch from its shell and export it dried to Haiti as had been done for many years, and yet sell the same shell to the exporter for the Florida trade.

Because of the much increased grant-in-aid, it had been possible in 1959 to increase the work offered under unemployment relief schemes from three to five days a week, but in 1960 unemployment relief payments were in fact reduced to the lowest level for many years as there was little unemployment, the Salt Company in 1960 offering employment to all who wished it. It must however be accepted that the twin pillars on which this apparent prosperity rested were the substantial increase in the grant-in-aid (£68,000 was made available in 1957 and 1958, but £188,000 was made available in 1959 and 1960), and the overseas recruitment programme.

During the years of depression, no increases had been made in the salaries of civil servants, which had fallen far behind those paid in other comparable territories. In 1959 the Government of Jamaica kindly sent an officer from the Establishments Division of its Ministry of Finance to review and regrade the salaries paid in the Civil Service. The Federal Government agreed to increase the grant-in-aid in order to pay these increased salaries and it was at last possible to recruit and retain officers who might otherwise have gone to more attractive employment overseas.

In all this increased economic activity, the needs of the Caicos Islands were not forgotten: in 1959 a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for agricultural development in these islands was introduced. Sisal is the one crop which it is certain can be grown, and the major part of the scheme was designed to expand the acreage of sisal under cultivation. Fertiliser was to be provided at a subsidised price. Dwarf coconuts were also distributed for planting. Unfortunately the hurricane of September, 1960 swept away many

of the coconuts and destroyed much of the existing sisal acreage. An Agriculture Extension Officer was recruited, and paid from this scheme, to oversee the work. Another Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for the Caicos Islands was approved during the period to provide for the installation of wireless transmitting and receiving sets in each of the districts of the Caicos Islands.

It is sad to record that Mr. J. W. Astwood, M.B.E., J.P., the District Commissioner of the Caicos Islands, died in July, 1959. His wide experience and his knowledge of the Caicos Islands were much missed, especially when the Colonial Development and Welfare schemes were afoot and so many other things were stirring. It was not possible to recruit a suitable candidate for this post which remained vacant during the rest of the period under review.

During the years under review there were many happenings of the first importance outside the economic field. The Turks and Caicos (Constitution) Order in Council, 1959, was published on 13th May, 1959, and came into force on 4th July. Under the new constitution the island are no longer a dependency of Jamaica nor have they a formal link with the Jamaican Government: the link is through the Governor of Jamaica, who, by virtue of his office, is also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is however still possible under certain circumstances for the Jamaican Legislature to make laws which apply to the islands. For the first time in the islands' history, elections were held by secret ballot on a basis of universal adult suffrage and a new Legislative Assembly was elected with a majority of unofficial members. An Executive Council, which he is obliged to consult on all important matters, was chosen to advise the Administrator. Although there were no political parties and there was little political feeling on many issues, the new constitution has worked well and a cordial and co-operative spirit has at all times been present among the members, elected, nominated and official. There was some administrative difficulty in holding the elections owing to the remoteness of some of the Caicos Islands and their poor communications. The school teachers of the Caicos settlements, who are generally the secretaries of the District Boards, were appointed registering and returning officers for their Districts.

During 1960 the position of the islands with regard to the Federation of The West Indies became an important issue, and in December a delegation from the Legislative Assembly, led by the Administrator, went to Jamaica to discuss it with the Federal Working Party, Alpha. Geographically, the islands are part of the Bahamas, and most of their inhabitants have family connections with people living

there. Little can be grown in the islands, which traditionally rely on exporting salt and importing all the other necessities of life. Again, the islands lie remote from most of the other countries of the Federation, and, because the population is so small and has not achieved full internal self-government, they cannot expect to elect a representative to the Federal Parliament. For these reasons, it was necessary to seek a special position within the Federation and negotiations were continuing at the end of the year.

In March, 1960 a new census was held. As with the holding of elections, there were difficulties in communication, and the school teachers in the Caicos settlements were appointed as returning officers. By the end of the year, the full analysis from the census was not available, but it was evident that, since the last census held in 1943, there has been a decline in population owing to steady emigration in the years of depression, most marked in the Caicos Islands. Children under fourteen years of age comprised no less than two-fifths of the total population of the islands.

With the comparative prosperity of the period under review, there had been a noticeable improvement in morale. This was heightened by the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in March, 1960, the first time an official visit had ever been paid by a member of the Royal Family to these islands. Her Majesty's Yacht *Britannia* lay off Grand Turk, and Her Royal Highness came ashore in the royal barge, past lines of sloops dressed overall, for all the Caicos sloops and the Salt Company lighters had come to Grand Turk for the occasion and were decorated with bunting and flags. Representatives of the District Boards from each District of the Caicos Islands, and chosen representatives of each branch of the Federation of Women, together with many of the general public and many school children, were present. All who could, came from every settlement. The troops of Scouts and Guides formed a guard of honour for Her Royal Highness to inspect, when she first landed, before proceeding to a platform made of a pile of salt, decorated with conch shells and starfish, and carpeted with mats especially woven by each branch of the Federation of Women. Her Royal Highness was presented with an address of welcome by the senior elected member of the Legislative Assembly and was given a conch shell lamp for herself, a sailing model of a local sloop for Prince Charles and a sponge for Princess Anne. It was a most colourful occasion, for all the Lodges and Benevolent Societies in the islands were present in their uniforms. After she had replied to the address of welcome, Her Royal Highness visited the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and the United States Naval Facility,

the Hospital and the Library. In the afternoon, a display was given by the Scouts and Guides on the parade ground, and in the adjacent Militia Building each branch of the Federation of Women of Grand Turk and Salt Cay and of each settlement of the Caicos Islands had stalls displaying their handwork. The women of the Grand Turk branch also put on a dress display, modelling the dresses they themselves had designed and made. The afternoon's entertainment was followed by a cocktail party at Government House. When Her Royal Highness returned to the *Britannia*, there was a firework display in the town to mark her departure and the close of a most memorable day for the islanders who had the good fortune to be present.

There was further token of the raised public morale, when the cricket clubs of the islands realised a long cherished dream by sending a cricket team to Nassau in June, 1960. The Government launch was put at their disposal, but all the funds required for the visit were raised and all preparations made by the cricket clubs themselves. The representative team acquitted itself well, and the experience was most valuable to all who took part: but the venture was also successful as a goodwill embassy and many old friendships were renewed with the people of Nassau. The visit was particularly important in creating public interest and goodwill in Nassau towards the islands at a time when so many of their inhabitants seek employment in the Bahamas.

The crowded activities of the period under review were suddenly halted by a natural disaster, when in September, 1960, hurricane "Donna" swept across the islands. Much damage was done in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, in particular to sea walls, wharves and the property of the Salt Company, but the main force of the hurricane struck all the Caicos settlements. Although there was no loss of life, approximately half the population was made homeless; tidal waves submerged much of the countryside, making agricultural land useless for cultivation and in some places altered the physical characteristics of the land by carving out a new mouth for a creek or leaving a permanent lake behind them. Most serious of all for a population of fishermen that rely on their vessels for their food, their cash income and their supplies, only one sloop was left afloat. As the Government launch was also sunk, there was no means of obtaining information from the Caicos Islands nor of getting supplies to them. Two days after the hurricane, the United States Navy kindly put an aircraft at the disposal of the Administrator who made an aerial reconnaissance of the Caicos Islands: on the same day, on his return, he obtained the services of the m.v. *Kirkstar*, a vessel with a capacity of some 550

tons which had come for a cargo of salt, which was loaded with all the supplies of food available in Grand Turk, and which set off at once to deliver supplies to the Caicos Islands. All the major settlements were visited and an estimate was formed of the damage done, of the amount of food which would be required to prevent starvation at least until some sloops could be repaired by the end of the year, the amount of material required for the repair of sloops, and the amount of cement, rafters and roofing material required to rebuild 300 houses.

The islands can never be too grateful to the Federal Government for providing funds and for the very quick action taken by the Jamaican Government to obtain and to charter another vessel, the *Anne T. William*, which arrived with all the supplies required to avert starvation and to rebuild the Caicos Islands in less than one month after the disaster. There was some physical difficulty in landing these supplies in the Caicos Islands owing to the distance the ship had to anchor from shore, and, as there were no local sloops to help unload it, four lighters from the Salt Company were towed by the ship. It was a race against time, for the onset of winter was likely to close the cuts in the reef to the north of the Caicos Islands, which provided the only means of access to them. The considerable task of unloading the 650 tons of supplies in these trying circumstances was accomplished by the co-operation of all concerned, the crew of the *Anne T. William*, the crews of the Salt Company's lighters, and the wholehearted efforts of the people of the settlements.

Once the supplies were landed, their administration was a considerable task, and was undertaken by the District Boards, which are the local government bodies in each district of the Caicos. These worked with efficiency in their invidious task; they distributed food, clothing and the material to rebuild the sloops, and inaugurated the house building programmes. By the end of the year, the rehabilitation of the Caicos settlements was well under way, houses were being built, the majority of the sloops had been repaired and were once more at work, and starvation had been averted.

In order to compensate for the loss of crops, it was decided to put money into circulation in the Caicos Islands by paying small grants to those whose houses had been demolished, as well as issuing them house building materials, and, in addition, the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for the expansion of the sisal industry, mentioned above, was put into full effect. Application for a substantial amount of money was also made to repair the damage

suffered by the Salt Company and for private houses in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, but approval for this was still awaited at the end of the year.

Towards the end of 1960, the United States Government agreed to re-negotiate the agreements concerning the United States Bases in all the territories of the countries of the Federation of The West Indies, so that all the agreements would be in a common form. The three United States Bases in these islands were included in this arrangement and negotiations were being conducted at the end of the year.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A census was held in March, 1960. The total population, excluding the personnel at the American Bases, was 5,496, of whom 3,404 lived in the salt-producing centres of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, and 2,092 in the Caicos settlements; 2,118 of the total population were children below the age of 14.

The population at the last census in 1943 was 6,138, made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	. . . . .	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	. . . . .	1,935
Persons of European descent	. . . . .	122

Comparable figures from the 1960 census are not yet available, but the racial proportions are expected to be similar, except that the numbers of those of European descent has declined.

Since 1943, the live birth rate has continued high, but there has also been a steady and continuous emigration from the islands, principally to the Bahamas. Many of the young men go away: women and children more frequently stay behind. The number of females is 56 per cent. of the total population, but since so many are children below the age of 14, the ratio of adult women to men is much higher. The effect of this is particularly evident at public meetings in the Caicos Islands where women usually outnumber men by two to one. Since the establishment of the United States military bases, there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements on census day was:

Grand Turk	. . . . .	2,139
Salt Cay	. . . . .	414
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	. . . . .	851
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	. . . . .	700
Kew (North Caicos) (including Sandy Point and Whitby)	. . . . .	371
Blue Hills (Providenciales) (including Five Cays and the Bight)	. . . . .	510
Middle Caicos (including Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar)	. . . . .	511

The birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, and during the period under review, the births and deaths registered during 1959 and 1960 were as follows:

<i>Year</i>		<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Number of deaths</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>
1959	.	224	92	132
1960	.	235	57	178

Migration figures were:

		<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>
Entered	.	603	824
Departed	.	754	903

Forty-two marriages were registered in 1959 and 24 in 1960.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE Turks Islands Salt Company which is the chief source of employment in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos, was partly supported by Government funds and maintained a higher level of activity than in the past, using the new mechanical equipment which had been provided by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant in 1958. The Company, as before, supported the population of Salt Cay and most of the people in South Caicos. In Grand Turk between 30 and 40 men were employed in an experimental plant for the production of fine salt. Throughout 1959 and 1960 the Salt Company consistently employed a labour force of 180 persons. This was made possible by a higher volume of sales, by a Government subsidy of £12,500 per annum and by unemployment relief funds, which, where possible, were channelled through the industry. In June, 1959, the basic wage in the industry was increased to 12s. per day, while unemployment relief remained at 9s. per day, but through the generous provision of relief funds it was possible at the same time to increase relief work from three to five days a week.

The number of persons employed on a semi-permanent basis at the two American bases was maintained throughout the period under review at approximately 80, 60 being employed at the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and 20 by the United States Naval Facility.

Crawfish and conch fishing, together with the production of sisal, continue to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands.

The Caicos Fisheries Inc., a Company engaged in exporting crawfish from the islands, maintained approximately the same level of activity as in the previous years and paid out over £23,000 in wages, mostly to the Caicos fishermen. During 1959, because of the closing of the Bahama Banks, the fishermen of the Caicos were able to develop a new source of income by supplying conch shells to American buyers. Hurricane "Donna" in September, 1960 put all local sloops out of action and destroyed a great part of the sisal crop so these sources of income yielded little from September until the end of the year.

Many continued to find employment overseas as in the past, and a considerable, though unknown, sum was sent by them to their dependants, particularly in the Caicos Islands.

In order to relieve unemployment, the Government made vigorous efforts to find work overseas and to recruit persons for it, and, during the period under review, an average of one hundred seamen was consistently employed by National Bulk Carriers Inc., a large American shipping company. The regular remittances sent by these seamen brought noticeable additional prosperity to the islands, and their absence did much to relieve the unemployment situation. The Government also recruited stevedores to work at Freeport at Grand Bahama Island, in addition to both male and female workers to pick cucumbers at Andros, 50 of whom were recruited in 1959 and 70 in 1960. As a result, there was often a shortage of labour, and competition for the best men bore hardly on the Salt Company.

The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, which had recruited 15 seamen in 1958, stopped their recruitment during the latter part of that year. They were encouraged to resume recruitment by the introduction of legislation to excuse any ship the payment of light dues, provided it recruited more seamen than it discharged; the company recruited 12 seamen in 1959 and 13 in 1960. This legislation induced other vessels also, including those supplying the Guided Missile Range and the United States Facility, to recruit seamen in these islands.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wage rates in the salt industry were 12s. for an 8-hour day from June, 1959, and wages paid by others tended to follow suit. Other rates are as follows:

Carpenters, masons, etc.	.	.	.	25s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	.	.	.	20s.-25s. per day
Domestic servants (females)	.	.	.	60s. to 120s. per month (usually with rations)

The agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities concerning the scale of wages paid for work at the American Bases, which had been made in 1956, was revised in 1959 and was as follows:

Group classification:	Minimum per hour			Maximum per hour		
	s.	d.	U.S. cents	s.	d.	U.S. cents
1. Mechanics	3	6½	50	7	0	98
2. Laundry foreman, labour foreman, cook's assistant, supply clerk, clerk typist	2	9	39	5	0	70
3. Mechanic helper, watchman, driver, stevedore	2	6	35	4	0	56
4. Orderly, labourer, senior mess attendant	2	3	32	4	0	56
5. Mess attendant, launderer, domestic	2	0	28	3	0	42

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates are to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognised by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	Unit	1950		1955		1958		1960	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef, pickled	lb.	1	10	2	10	2	10	2	10
Beans, red kidney	qt.	1	9	2	6	2	6	3/0 to 3/6	
Corn	qt.		6	1	0	1	0	1	0
Cabbage	lb.		8	1	0	1	3	1	0
Cornmeal	lb.		5		6½		7		9
Condensed Milk	14 oz.		10½	1	6	1	6	1	6
Flour	lb.		5½		6½		6½		6½
Lard	lb.	1	4½	1	11	1	11	1	11
Margarine	lb.	1	5	2	3	2	3	2	6
Meat, Jamaican	lb.	2	0	2	9	3	3	5	0
Onions	lb.		6		10	1	0	1	0
Oranges	doz.	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	0
Plantains	each		2½		4		4		4
Pork, Pickled	lb.	1	5	2	0	2	0	2	0
Potatoes, Irish	lb.		4½		7½		7	7d-9d*	
Potatoes, Sweet	lb.		4		4		6		9
Powdered Milk	lb.	4	10	5	10	5	10	6	3
Rice	qt.	1	1	2	0	1	10½	1	10 Brown
								2	0 White
Sugar, Granulated	lb.		7		8½		8½		9½

* These prices vary due to seasonal changes.

Although the prices of basic foods have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods, are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage of

suitable housing on Grand Turk and the increased demand brought by the American Bases, rents have remained high.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the island, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom, approved at the end of 1955, was continued until the end of 1958, when responsibility for it was assumed by the Federal Government. £188,279 was made available to cover the financial deficit in 1959 and 1960 (about £173,000 was actually required), compared with £68,000 in 1957 and 1958 (about £51,000 actually required).

There is no authorised public debt, but there was an amount of £33,340 owed to the Jamaica Government on 1st January, 1960. Of this amount £14,553 was owed to the Turks Islands Government by Turks Islands Importers Limited at that date. The £5,000 of shares, previously held by the Turks Islands Government in this Company, were sold to private interests who now operate the Company and have guaranteed repayment of the debt owing to the Jamaica Government.

In 1957 the financial year was altered to coincide with the calendar year to conform with the accounting practice of the Jamaica Government, and 1958 therefore was the first year in which the financial and calendar years coincided.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four financial years are shown in the following tables:

	REVENUE			
	1957	1958	1959	1960
	(April- December)			(Revised Estimate)
	£	£	£	£
Customs	25,250	38,272	41,109	37,500
Port Dues	935	1,423	1,549	1,450
Licences and other internal Revenue	1,116	1,547	1,441	1,500
Fees of Court and Office	1,854	1,317	1,254	1,026
Departmental Revenue	362	556	540	400
Reimbursements	956	2,817	2,369	3,372
Post Office	27,894	7,135	9,087	18,940
Interest	1,004	1,364	965	1,237
Miscellaneous	2,296	2,979	2,498	2,140
Salt Royalty	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	61,667	57,410	60,812	67,565

REVENUE—continued

	1957 (April– December) Actual £	1958 Actual £	1959 Actual £	1960 (Revised Estimate) £
Industries	3,391	10,004	8,099	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	3,458	58,735	23,235	12,662
Land Sales	50	—	—	1
Sale of 1,000 Ordinary Shares in Turks Islands Importers Limited	—	—	—	—
Grant-in-aid of Administration	17,153	33,503	85,401	89,407
Surplus of 1955/56 Accounts	762	—	—	—
Insurance on Motor Launch <i>Beta Cygni</i>	5,940	—	—	—
TOTAL REVENUE	92,421	159,652	177,547	169,635

EXPENDITURE

Pensions	1,680	2,256	2,680	4,375
Commissioner's Department	6,515	13,192	19,044	16,696
Treasury and Customs	5,543	7,572	7,943	9,218
Judicial Department	2,338	2,900	4,487	5,009
Police Department	3,957	4,922	7,009	10,010
Prison Department	1,498	2,004	1,961	2,469
Medical Department	6,670	12,894	13,278	16,207
Paupers and Lunatics	698	968	1,079	1,315
Education	6,357	8,580	12,786	13,433
Miscellaneous	4,344	6,324	7,117	10,545
Post Office	5,592	2,208	4,214	6,474
Lighthouses	831	1,358	1,515	1,846
Savings Bank	279	407	382	632
Food Control Department	—	—	—	—
Public Works Department	1,550	2,430	2,682	3,184
Public Works Recurrent	8,908	6,515	4,790	5,400
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	56,760	74,530	90,967	106,813
Public Works Extraordinary	2,751	4,825	8,360	10,070
Industries	5,122	6,498	6,726	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	4,302	63,815	20,360	12,662
Land and Property Purchases	—	50	—	4,000
Subsidy to Turks Islands Salt Company	—	—	12,500	12,500
Drought	1,421	225	436	—
Payment for Salt Stocks	—	—	—	6,590
Unemployment Relief	11,408	8,394	16,694	17,000
Write-offs to Expenditure	5,230	—	—	—
Purchase of new Motor Launch	12,129	650	—	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	99,123	158,987	156,043	169,635

For the first time in the history of the islands a new £1 stamp was introduced on 1st November, 1960. It portrays the locally familiar sight of a pelican against a background of salt salinas, and its design harmonises with those of the lower denominations of stamps which display fishes common in these waters. By the end of the year sales of this new stamp had realised about £14,000.

Payment of the salt royalty, which had been waived from 1st April, 1956 to enable the Turks Islands Salt Company to repay amounts due to the former owners of salt stocks taken over in 1951 when the Company was formed, was not resumed: as there was still no prospect of the Salt Company finding this amount due to the former owners from its own resources, the sum of £6,590 was generously provided by the Federal Government, and in 1960 this long outstanding debt was at last paid off. Negotiations concerning the redemption of preference shares were also conducted, but were not concluded.

Financial assistance from the Jamaica Government included payment of half the salaries of the staff of the Grand Turk Hospital and of the two medical officers, a contribution to the cost of the drugs used, and a grant to the Child Welfare Association to provide subsidised milk for children up to six years of age.

No direct taxation is levied in the islands, there being no poll, income or property tax.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaica Notes	50,000
Jamaica Nickel	100
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the islands. The Government Savings Bank held on 31st December, 1959 a total of £79,599 in 1,440 accounts; deposits and withdrawals were £58,809 and £51,657 respectively during the year. On 31st December, 1960 the Bank held a total of £94,655 in 1,548 accounts. Deposits and withdrawals were £61,842 and £48,699 respectively. During 1958, deposits and withdrawals had been £32,093 and £31,948 respec-

tively: the 1960 figures effectively demonstrate the considerably increased prosperity during the years under review. The amounts due to depositors at 31st December in each year from 1950 to 1958 had fluctuated between £65,000 and £70,000 and had averaged £67,666. In 1959 the figure had increased to £79,599 and in 1960 to £92,742, an unprecedented figure.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports and exports during the last six years was as follows:

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	125,792	143,218	149,157	162,324	189,132	216,686
Exports	48,648	52,207	53,277	53,331	55,627	88,463

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past six years:

Year	United Kingdom	Other parts of the Commonwealth	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1955	11,384	72,278	42,130	125,792
1956	8,890	66,242	68,086	143,218
1957	5,776	79,365	64,016	149,157
1958	5,572	76,950	79,802	162,324
1959	21,248	83,676	84,208	189,132
1960	23,381	96,360	96,945	216,686

The main types of import for the years 1957-60 were:

	1957	1958	1959	1960
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco	99,094	105,492	110,459	132,551
Raw materials	8,401	11,091	11,975	13,550
Manufactured articles	36,687	41,748	62,020	66,032
Unclassified	4,975	3,993	4,678	4,553

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin:

	1957	1958	1959	1960
	%	%	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco	54	50	48	48
Raw materials	76	52	56	55
Manufactured articles	62	52	36	35
Unclassified	40	44	38	40

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

Year	Jamaica £	Other parts of the Commonwealth £	Foreign Countries £
1953	17,060	1,901	14,782
1954	18,181	7,133	22,772
1955	18,368	10,735	19,545
1956	20,129	10,180	21,898
1957	16,890	10,728	25,659
1958	18,409	8,709	26,213
1959	21,879	10,888	43,813
1960	15,192	8,612	64,658

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

	1957	1958	1959	1960
Salt:				
tons	21,028	18,156	19,095	31,717
value	£29,870	£28,022	£32,221	£45,347
Conchs (dried):				
number	2,099,650	2,417,350	1,664,400	912,800
value	£7,308	£8,451	£5,466	£2,833
Conchs (frozen):				
lb.	302	—	4,260	7,800
value	£3	—	£192	£477
Crawfish:				
lb.	101,160	100,400	92,268	102,020
value	*£9,161	*£8,835	*£29,026	£32,433
Sisal:				
tons	60	65	81	41
value	£6,300	£6,825	£8,505	£4,100
Scalefish:				
lb.	12,851	23,607	3,000	—
value	£600	£1,198	£82	—
Conch shells:				
number	—	—	304,600	348,454
value	—	—	£1,088	£3,253
Sponge:				
lb.	300	—	—	320
value	£35	—	—	£20

Remittances from abroad were estimated to total £18,000 in 1959 and £24,000 in 1960.

* *Amended figures.* The values for crawfish exported in 1957 and 1958 were subsequently discovered to have been too low.

FOOD CONTROL

During the war it was necessary for the Food Control Department to undertake most of the import trade of the islands, this being financed by an advance of some £50,000 by the Jamaica Treasury. After the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war

practices, and it was necessary to continue the operation of the Food Control Department as a trading concern. In November, 1952, the department was converted into a government-owned limited liability company known as the Turks Islands Importers Limited. In 1955 the company was taken over by private enterprise, who also took over liability for the repayment of the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding. This firm is still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available.

Price control powers are exercised by the Administrator under the Trade Law, 1960, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities. The Jamaica Defence Regulations, under which these powers had previously been exercised, expired in December, 1958.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

THE production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the traditional and the basic industry of the islands. Production is carried on at the three salt islands, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent. of the total production.

Four grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica; and fine salt for domestic use in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, and the granulated and fine salt in bags.

The Turks Islands Salt Company which took over the ownership and the operation of the salt industry from the private owners in 1951, provided more employment and sustained a higher level of activity in 1959 and 1960 than at any time since its inception; but the loss on operation continued high, being £13,017 for the year ending 30th September, 1959, and £26,554 for the year ending 30th September, 1960, when a particularly wet year prevented any new salt being raked, the full impact of the increase in wages from 9s. to 12s. per day was felt, and the disastrous hurricane "Donna" arrived on 5th September, in time for some of its effects to be included in the Company's accounts. These deficits were met by the subsidy of £12,500 and by unemployment relief funds, both provided by the Federal Government under grand-in-aid funds.

There are several reasons for the decline of the salt industry. Salt is a cheap and abundant commodity and has to be produced on a

large scale and by mechanical means in order to compete in world markets, whereas the industry in the islands is on a small scale, operating principally from Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay, separated by 22 and 8 miles of sea respectively from the headquarters at Grand Turk. None of the salt islands has an adequate harbour, and nowhere can vessels drawing more than six feet of water come alongside a wharf. As none of the salt islands affords safe harbourage during all phases of the weather, loading may frequently be interrupted by bad weather conditions. Even South Caicos, which offers the largest quantity of salt for shipment, is badly exposed to the prevailing strong south-east wind. Apart from this, ships are reluctant to call for cargoes of salt because the islands are too small to offer inward cargoes, and they must needs travel here, for at least some distance, in ballast.

Up to June 1958, salt was loaded into ships by traditional methods, i.e. by shovels, half bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and sailing lighters, and it was impossible by this means to load more than 600 tons a day: then mechanical equipment was obtained with a generous grant of £35,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to make bulk loading possible at Cockburn Harbour, the intention being to increase the loading rate to 1,000 tons per working day. This equipment arrived in June and July, 1958, and consisted principally of four tipping lorries, two Weatherill Loaders, a stacker, Walrus loader, grabs for operating from the ships' booms, engines for a mechanical conveyor and for a launch, one towing launch and two barges. It was then necessary to recruit and train men to operate the machinery, and throughout the period under review, there were persistent difficulties in obtaining good reliable men at wages the industry could afford, particularly as the Government was also recruiting seamen for service with National Bulk Carriers and other workers for overseas, and was thus in competition with the Company for the best men. Despite these difficulties a loading rate of 1,000 tons per day, which had been the target, was achieved on many occasions at Cockburn Harbour in 1959 and 1960, and this improvement helped increase the volume of salt sold in 1960 by 50 per cent. over any previous year since the formation of the Company. But the year closed with much of the equipment in urgent need of repair, renovation or replacement. Much difficulty was experienced in obtaining spares for the mechanical equipment owing to the remoteness of the islands and their poor communications. Lack of workshop facilities and of skilled mechanics, and of a slipway for the heavy barges, all made maintenance a most serious problem. A manager, with mechanical engineering experience, was however recruited and arrived in November, 1960.

In 1960 a pier was constructed at Salt Cay, around which dredging was done and on which a bulk loading chute was built in order to obviate the need for a conveyor. Some old tipping trucks were renovated and Salt Cay was supplied with a new Weatherill loader from the Company's own resources. A bulk loading rate well in excess of 1,000 tons per day was then possible, and the new loading system was used on 1,800 tons of cargo for Newfoundland. The renovated trucks were not satisfactory in use and new ones were ordered.

In 1959 production had been at 30,000 tons and it had been hoped to increase this the following year but 1960 was exceptionally wet and no new salt was raked in its course: hurricane "Donna" in September, 1960 completed the damage done by earlier rains, washed out many of the walls between the salinas, did substantial damage to sea walls and loading places and swept away the Company's wharves in all the salt islands. Fortunately no damage was done to the floating equipment nor to the heavy mechanical equipment ashore but there was substantial loss from which the industry will take long to recover.

During June and July, 1960 the Administrator made a tour of customers in New York, Boston, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Montreal and it was unfortunate that the substantial increase in sales he was able to achieve, especially with Eastern Minerals Inc., of Boston, could not later be sustained by the industry, due largely to the damage done by hurricane "Donna."

During 1959 a pilot plant to produce fine salt for domestic consumption in Jamaica was set up in Grand Turk. This had previously been attempted but had been abandoned in 1954 as it had not been possible to dry the salt and prevent it from caking too hard. A new technique was introduced and this difficulty was overcome. Throughout the period under review, a steady but small supply averaging 30 tons per month was sent to Jamaica and found ready acceptance. Plans were made and funds were applied for to establish an up-to-date plant on a larger scale, designed eventually to supply the fine salt market in the West Indies Federation, and it is probable that this represents a most significant development for the future of the Company.

There was also an important increase in the export of coarse bagged salt to the countries of the Federation of The West Indies, from 1,765 tons in 1959 to 2,514 tons in 1960. It appears that the future of the Company may more and more depend on the market developed in The West Indies for both fine and coarse salt.

When the Company was formed in 1951, stocks of salt were taken over from previous salt proprietors, but owing to the difficulties into which the Company fell, no payment for this had been made for some years and the Company still owed them £6,590. The Federal Government generously provided the money to enable the debt to be paid off by the end of 1960. Negotiations were carried on throughout the period under review about the redemption of the preference shares, with which the salt proprietors had been issued in part exchange for their properties and which are redeemable by the Company between 1960 and 1980.

It became necessary in 1959 to increase the basic wage rates paid in the industry to 12s. per day, partly because the cost of living was so high, partly to improve morale and to break the connection with unemployment relief work with which the industry was associated in the minds of all its employees, partly because of the high wage rates paid in the Bahamas to migrant islanders and the mounting influence of remittances sent home by those who had found employment overseas. Because of this necessary increase and the high overheads entailed by running three relatively small centres of production separated from each other by miles of sea, it became unlikely that the industry could ever pay its way on an output of 50,000 tons per year, which the report prepared by Mr. E. K. Willing-Denton and Mr. A. Ratcliffe of Imperial Chemical Industries Salt Division in 1954 had envisaged.

Apart from the fine salt plant mentioned above, the one major improvement which could be undertaken would be to dredge Cockburn Harbour and to load ships in its shelter, production at Cockburn Harbour being considerably increased to pay for so costly an operation.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of salt shipments in 1959 and 1960:

Destination	1959		1960	
	Quantity (tons)	Value £	Quantity (tons)	Value £
Canada	4,615	7,005	4,437	4,841
United States	6,845	7,334	19,009	23,761
Jamaica	5,470	13,374	4,502	11,092
Federation of The West Indies (excluding Jamaica)	1,765	3,883	2,514	3,771
Martinique	400	625	1,200	1,800
Haiti	nil	nil	55	82
	<u>19,095</u>	<u>32,221</u>	<u>31,717</u>	<u>45,347</u>

FISHERIES

The fisheries of the islands have continued to be of great importance, particularly to the Caicos settlements. Between two and three million dried conchs are exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they are sold for an average price of about \$U.S.14.00 per thousand. These conch sales are the basis of a flourishing two-way trade in which vegetables, fruit and other supplies are brought back, although owing to the disablement of local sloops by hurricane "Donna" there was some fall in the volume exported in 1960.

The crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank increased its exports slightly in 1960 and remained second only to the Salt Company in its importance to the islands. Spearing of crawfish was prohibited in 1959 and replaced by trapping in lobster pots and by bully netting. Up to 12 Jamaican fishermen, experienced in handling pots, were brought in by Caicos Fisheries Ltd. to demonstrate their technique to local fishermen. The company also employed several divers from the United States of America to catch crawfish, and to teach their manner of operation to local men.

Other fisheries are undeveloped, sponges remain few and far between, and fresh fish is not easy to obtain in any of the major settlements.

The export of conch shells to Florida (where they are used in decorating), which began in 1956 and ceased in 1957, was resumed in 1959, when the Bahamas forbade the export of conch shells from the Bahama Banks. In order to control exports, an exclusive licence was issued to the Shell Factory of Fort Lauderdale, the proprietor of which bought a vessel, the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory*, to run regularly between the islands and Florida, exporting shells and bringing in supplies, thus making a substantial contribution to the supply position, as well as to employment in the Caicos Islands.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the two American bases account for a large part of the available land, and also there has been some expansion of building. On Grand Turk there is no great demand for agricultural land, as during the past few years lack of rain has discouraged much planting.

In the Caicos Islands there is no shortage of land, but the soil is of poor quality and here, too, water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these "plantations" as they are called locally. Apart from grants

of land made by the Government to the original settlers, much of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental. In 1960, large tracts of land together amounting to approximately 12,000 acres in the Caicos, alienated many years ago, were re-purchased by the Government. Leases were drawn up for nearly 1,000 acres of Crown land for use by farmers in connection with a new Colonial Development and Welfare scheme.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the salt islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problem is the uncertain rainfall; in 1959 drought spoiled the crops: in 1960 the second harvest, expected in December, was spoiled by the hurricane which inundated the land with salt.

Sisal is the main cash crop and a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful and a considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Exports increased from 65 tons in 1958 to 81 tons in 1959. In 1960, owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane and the loss of local sloops which carried the fibre, exports dropped to 41 tons. It is feared that it may take up to three years to restore output to its former level. The quality of the sisal is poor and it is unlikely ever to be first grade so long as the retting has to be done in salt water, but the fibre has a protected market in Jamaica.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are killed to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American bases and keep pigs of an improved quality.

In 1959 a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for agricultural development in the Caicos Islands was introduced. It was planned to increase substantially the area planted with sisal by offering a loan to farmers of £3 per acre to be paid in the first year of new cultivation and £1 10s. 0. per acre to be paid in each of the second and third years. It was hoped to provide for an additional 1,000 acres and the loan would be repayable over the fourth, fifth and sixth years. As part of this scheme also, funds were provided to supply fertiliser at a subsidised price at the rate of 100 lbs. for each acre newly planted with sisal eligible for the loan, and a decorticator was provided in order to improve the quality of the fibre. Six thousand dwarf coconuts were imported and distributed for

planting and a subsidy of £5, spread over three years, was offered for each acre planted with coconuts. Many of these coconuts were unfortunately swept away in the tidal wave which followed hurricane "Donna." The scheme also provided funds to grant a subsidy of £5 for each acre of pasture established up to 50 acres, and to import one bull and 12 heifers to establish a revolving cattle scheme, whereby the owner of a heifer returns the first female calf to the Government, to give to another person.

To oversee this programme an Agricultural Extension Officer was recruited. Difficulties in obtaining transport between the settlements were continuous and very considerable preliminary work had first to be done to define the areas of land which persons wished to use, to register Crown land and to draw up leases for it. Finally, in all the Caicos Islands great destruction was caused by hurricane "Donna," and it was not until the close of 1960 that a start could be made with implementing the proposals for the increased production of sisal. By then, the need arising from the loss of existing crops in the Caicos Islands was so serious that it became evident that the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme should be increased to provide for the planting of another 500 acres of sisal and for importing additional coconuts to replace those lost in the hurricane. A new Colonial Development and Welfare application was therefore submitted at the end of the year.

MINING

In August, 1960 the oil exploration licence, which was granted to the Bahama California Oil Company in 1955 and was renewed in 1958, was reissued for a further year.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the islands is under the control of the Board of Education appointed by the Administrator under the Education Ordinance. The Administrator is chairman of the Board. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature.

There are 13 elementary schools in the islands, which serve the six inhabited islands. The school at Grand Turk is divided into junior and senior sections. The senior section provides the only form

of secondary education in the islands. Here the pupils are prepared for the Cambridge University Joint School Certificate and General Certificate of Education Examination, or the London University General Certificate of Education Examination.

Education is free and in addition nine scholarships worth £30 per annum are awarded to pupils from the out islands attending the senior section of the Grand Turk School.

During 1960 a law amending the Education Ordinance was passed, giving the Board of Education control over private schools and also authority to enforce compulsory attendance of all children of school age (7-14 years). There were 1,285 names on the rolls in 1960 and the average attendance was 946. Comparative figures for the past three years are:

	1958	1959	1960
Number on roll	1,239	1,241	1,285
Average attendance	930	924	946
Per centage attendance	75	74.5	74

There was an improvement in the salaries offered to teachers, particularly to trained staff. Most of the teachers in the Caicos schools are the products of the local schools and they are difficult to recruit. Over 90 per cent. of the staff are women.

At the end of 1960, three teachers trained in Jamaica under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme were at work in the schools, two were in training in Jamaica and one completed his three-year course in December, 1960, and returned to work in the islands.

A teachers' training course for the teachers in the outlying Caicos settlements was held in December, 1959.

The total expenditure on education was £12,786 in 1959 and £13,433 in 1960. No facilities exist for technical or adult education. Most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk. Some of the schools have small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands is good. There were no outbreaks of cholera, amoebic dysentery, or other water-borne diseases in the period under review, except that the outbreak at Grand Turk of typhoid fever in November, 1958, continued into 1959, the last case being admitted in April. There were 18 cases in all, of whom eight had positive blood cultures. There was a decline in venereal disease in 1959, due to a campaign started by the medical officer in 1958. In 1960 there was an increase in the number of cases of gonorrhoea, but no syphilis was reported.

Facilities for sanitation and disposal of garbage were lacking in most centres, but in Grand Turk the system of garbage collection was continued. An experiment was made in 1959 of dumping the garbage in the sea by having it carried by lighters over the edge of the deep. This was however abandoned as it was difficult to ensure its disposal far enough out to sea, and the garbage dumps were accordingly re-opened.

The attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly at Grand Turk continues to be satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy is low. Attendances in 1959 totalled 139, with 98 deliveries of which 77 were carried out by the district midwife in the home. The district midwife also does the post-natal examination of babies and mothers.

An out-patient clinic is held five days a week at Grand Turk. Four thousand and seventy-six patients were seen in 1959.

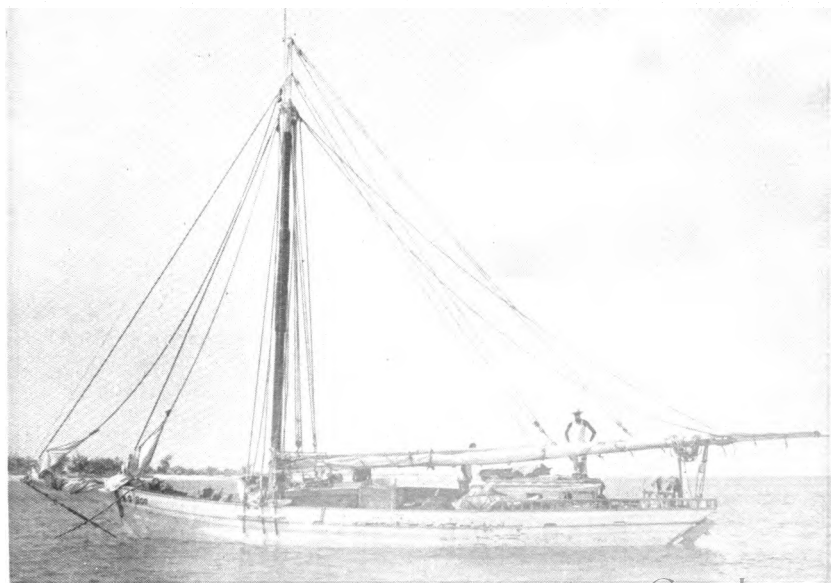
There is a 16-bed hospital at Grand Turk and a clinic at Cockburn Harbour in South Caicos. Two medical officers from Jamaica, one seconded for a period of one year and one for five years, were stationed at Grand Turk, and Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, respectively. The staff at the Grand Turk Hospital consists of a matron, four staff nurses, of whom usually two are seconded for six months at a time from Jamaica, three probationer nurses, and a trained nurse for the dispensary and midwifery work. Provision in 1960 was made for an additional nurse to assist with dispensary work, but it proved impossible to recruit one. In addition there is a sanitary inspector at Grand Turk and, to assist the medical officer at South Caicos, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There is also a district midwife at Salt Cay and one at Bottle Creek in the Caicos Islands. During the period under review, eight women from the Caicos settlements were recruited and trained for a period of six weeks in midwifery at the Grand Turk Hospital. This was financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. A further scheme enabled these midwives, now termed settlement nurses, to be provided with a nurse's bag, dressing, scissors and a stretcher on which to evacuate very ill patients. Previously these settlements, although regularly visited by the medical officer stationed at Cockburn Harbour, had been without any trained help at all.

As in previous years the Jamaica Government paid half the salaries of the staff of the hospital at Grand Turk and they also contributed to the cost of drugs used in the islands.

During the period under review, regular visits were paid to Salt Cay by the medical officer stationed in Grand Turk. The Caicos settlements were visited by the medical officer stationed at Cockburn Harbour as often as possible, twice in September and



His Excellency the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., addressing members of the Legislative Assembly at its opening session at Grand Turk in October 1959.



A Haitian sloop anchored off Grand Turk. These sloops bring from Haiti nearly all the fresh fruit and vegetables consumed in these islands.



Unloading hurricane relief supplies from the "Anne T. William" in the Caicos Islands after hurricane "Donna."



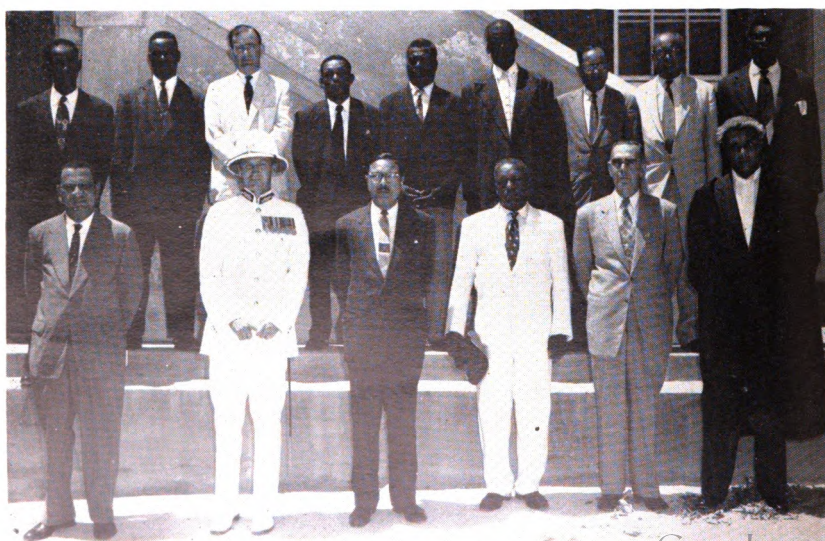
The United States Air Force flew down clothing for free distribution immediately after hurricane "Donna." Shown in the picture from left to right are an aircrew member, Mrs. Guy, an aircrew member, Mr. C. C. Guy, M.B.E., the Administrator, Captain A. R. Garner, the U.S.A.A.F. Base Commander, Grand Turk; Mr. J. F. Sullivan, the Deputy Administrator; Mr. Tom Elder, Assistant Base Manager, and in front, Mr. L. H. Boothe, Assistant Administrator.



Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal inspecting a Scout Guard of Honour on arrival at Grand Turk on 25th March, 1960.



Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, accompanied by the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, being met on arrival at Grand Turk by the Administrator and Mrs. Guy and members of the Executive Council and their wives.



The members of the Legislative Assembly elected under the new Constitution introduced on 4th July, 1959.

November, 1960, under uncomfortable conditions immediately following hurricane "Donna."

Government expenditure on medical services was £13,278 in 1959 and was estimated to be £16,207 in 1960.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social welfare activities have continued to increase during the past two years.

The Boy Scout movement which was first started in these islands in 1952, now has two troops at Grand Turk, one at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour. There are 123 Scouts, 90 Girl Guides (of whom there are companies in Grand Turk and Salt Cay) and 23 Cubs.

During the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in March, 1960, Scouts and Guides formed a guard of honour and gave a display during the afternoon of her visit. There was another highlight in July, 1960, when a district camp, including representatives from all the troops in the islands, took place at Cockburn Harbour. It was the first time such a camp had been held. In 1959 also the Scout movement sent two of its members to take part in the one week's all-island training camp held in Jamaica. Plans also were made to send a contingent of Scouts from the islands to the Jamboree to be held in Trinidad in April, 1961: to raise funds for this, the Assistant Administrator organised a choir which gave concerts at Christmas, 1960.

At Grand Turk there is a very active branch of the Jamaica Child Welfare Association, and public clinics supervised by the medical officer and the district midwife are held twice a month; voluntary helpers attend to weigh the children and keep records. When necessary on medical grounds, free full cream dried milk was provided for babies whose mothers could not afford to pay for it, and free cod liver oil malt and vitamin drops were also provided for those who needed them. The funds to provide these free foods were raised locally by the Child Welfare Association, which also gave a Christmas party in Grand Turk for all children under the age of six.

A regular clinic was held in Cockburn Harbour, supervised by the medical officer there, and in Salt Cay, supervised by the resident nurse, assisted by the local president of the Women's Federation.

A generous grant from the Jamaica Government subsidised the milk scheme, which operated in all the settlements of the Caicos Islands as well as in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Powdered milk was sold at a quarter of its market value by members of the Women's Federation, who gave their services free.

The branches of the Jamaica Federation of Women continued to thrive, their numbers being increased from 10 in 1958 to 12 in 1960. The effect of the work of the Federation was most marked in the more isolated settlements of the Caicos, where members played a leading part in all phases of the life of the community, and in fact provide the necessary organisation and leadership for many of the social activities so much needed in the islands. A public sale of handwork was held weekly in Grand Turk and did much to stimulate the Caicos branches to make straw and sisal handwork: during the period under review, these sales have realised more than £500, ready customers being found among the personnel of the American bases, as well as among the permanent inhabitants of Grand Turk themselves. In 1960 three sewing machines were given to the branches of the Federation under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme which puts up half the price of the machines if the Federation puts up the other half.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress, and the Pauper Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases. The Church World Service at the close of 1960 provided food for free distribution to those in need; dried milk for distribution to pregnant women, nursing mothers and pre-school children was obtained from UNICEF throughout the period under review.

HOUSING

The general standard of housing on Grand Turk is poor, most of the buildings being of temporary wooden construction and raised off the ground on blocks, as much had been built in a hurry after the disastrous hurricane of 1945. It is pleasing to record that the hurricane in September, 1960, did little damage to private property in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour and that the higher level of prosperity in these islands engendered by the increased activity of the Salt Company and by the overseas recruitment programmes, brought a most noticeable improvement to the decoration of the houses and there was some new construction of better quality.

In contrast, much damage was done by the hurricane in September, 1960, to the houses in the Caicos settlements, where approximately one half of the population was made homeless. In November a ship was chartered and supplies distributed to re-build 300 houses, including cement, wood for roof timbers and rafters and aluminium roofing. Much progress had been made by the end of the year in most of the settlements in rebuilding their houses, many of which were built to a higher standard than they had been before the hurricane.

Chapter 8: Legislation

FIVE laws were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1959 and **nine** in 1960. These were as follows:

1959

1. The Appropriation Law, 1959
2. Pilotage and Harbour (Amendment) Law, 1959
3. A Law to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance
4. A Law to amend the Customs Ordinance
5. The Supplementary Appropriation Law, 1959.

1960

1. A Law to amend the Education Ordinance
2. A Law to amend the Special Tax Ordinance, 1957
3. A Law to amend the Medical Service Ordinance, 1944
4. A Law to amend the Summary Offences Ordinance
5. A Law to repeal the Coroner's Ordinance
6. The Appropriation Law, 1960
7. The Trade Law, 1960
8. The Supplementary Appropriation (January to December, 1958) Law, 1960
9. The Medical Service (Amendment) Law, 1960.

The law to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1959 was to enable an organisation such as the Church World Service (see page 30) to import foodstuffs and clothing for free distribution to the poor and needy, and the law to amend the Customs Ordinance was to provide that ships which call at the islands and recruit more seamen than they discharge, should be exempt from light dues, the purpose of this measure being to stimulate the recruitment of seamen.

The law to amend the Education Ordinance, 1960, brought private schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education which was enabled to make regulations, among other things, for their supervision and for the introduction of compulsory attendance at schools. The law to amend the Special Tax Ordinance exempted rice from the payment of the special tax of 4 per cent. which had been levied in 1957 on goods brought into the islands. The law to amend the Summary Offences Ordinance made it possible to keep better control on prostitution which, during the last few years, has increased in Grand Turk. The Coroners Ordinance was repealed and replaced to

bring the law in line with modern practice elsewhere and to make specific allowance for the difficult communications between the islands. The Trade Law, 1960, was introduced to replace the Jamaica Defence Regulations which expired in December, 1958, under which the Administrator, as competent authority, had been empowered to exercise price control over basic necessities and ensure that adequate stocks of foods and essentials were held in the islands. The Medical Service Amendment Law provided for the regulation of fees which could be charged by a Government medical officer for his services.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the islands consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica was empowered to extend its legislation to the islands, and under the Order in Council of 1959 it may still do so. Certain Federal Laws now apply to the islands.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate who during the period under review was a Clerk of the Courts seconded from Jamaica for a one-year term. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary enquiry is taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 29 in the islands. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

POLICE

The force is commanded by an Inspector under the administrative supervision of the Assistant Administrator. Six members of the force are stationed at Grand Turk and four at Cockburn Harbour. At Salt Cay there is one special constable and in the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable at each of the principal settlements.

The establishment of two American bases on Grand Turk made it necessary to strengthen the force and, through the assistance of the Jamaica Government, an Inspector and two first-class constables have been seconded from Jamaica since October, 1955, each officer normally serving a period of one year. The force has been able to deal with any incident involving personnel of the American bases with firmness, fairness and despatch, and has thus been an important factor in preserving the excellent relations between the bases and the local population.

Crime statistics for 1959 and 1960 are shown in Appendices II-IV.

THE PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population averages about four.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from windchargers or from diesel-operated generators, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain-water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks,

where water is sold at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon. There are 22 of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,427,000 gallons as follows:

	<i>Number of tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	12	1,042,000
Salt Cay	3	60,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	5	265,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	20,000
TOTAL	22	1,427,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation or for human consumption.

The serious drought, which started in 1956 and went on with little alleviation in 1957 and 1958, continued through 1959. Water was not rationed, although this would have been necessary but for the generous gift of 300,000 gallons of water to the Government by the United States Guided Missile Base. Although the transport of this quantity of water from the Base to the town presented considerable problems, these were overcome, and the supply ensured that for the first year since 1955, no water was imported into Grand Turk, nor was the expensive distillation plant run. It was however necessary to import water for Salt Cay, and this was done by the m.v. *Kirknell* which came for a cargo of salt and kindly brought in sufficient water in its ballast tanks.

The average annual rainfall in recent years has only been 29 inches but in 1959, as in the immediately preceding years, only 21 inches fell. By contrast the rainfall in 1960 was at least 46.78 inches, and it is thought much of the rain which fell during hurricane "Donna" was not recorded.

The new catchment area and water tank which has a capacity of 302,000 gallons and which was constructed under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme at the end of 1958, remained empty during most of 1959, as little rain fell: it was, however, full early in 1960, and it is hoped that it will now be a substantial insurance against a recurrence of drought conditions. The original plan to lay pipelines from the tank to the town has not been completed.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a Superintendent with a regular staff of two persons, others being employed when required.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

THE m.v. *Kirksons*, a vessel of some 300 tons capacity, plied regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk at approximately three-weekly intervals, bringing mail and the bulk of supplies, and taking out salt, until she was stranded in June, 1960, off Jamaica, with no cargo or passengers aboard, thus bringing her long service to these islands to an end. She was replaced by the m.v. *Carib Queen*, a vessel of about the same size but under different ownership.

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company call at Grand Turk from Europe at regular three-monthly intervals.

Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage but do not call, as freight rates for direct delivery to Grand Turk are higher than the rates to Jamaica.

There are three ports of entry: Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than 15 feet must anchor at some distance from the shore.

A lighthouse is maintained at the northern point of Grand Turk, and there are beacons at Sand Cay, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay.

Eight new vessels were registered in the islands in 1959 and three in 1960 with gross tonnage of 155 and 156 tons respectively, making the total register 129 vessels with 1,733 tons gross. These are mostly sloops built in the Caicos Islands, which range from five to 25 tons and which carry on regular trade with the north coast of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, taking dried conchs and bringing back fresh supplies. In 1960 the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory*, a motor vessel of 140 tons gross, was registered. This vessel is solely engaged in the export of conch shells to Miami.

AIR SERVICES

The weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk, which was begun by Bahamas Airways Ltd. in March, 1956, continued throughout the period under review. This service is subsidised by the Government and operates every Tuesday.

POSTAL SERVICES

All air mail is routed through Nassau every Tuesday and surface mail is carried by sea to Kingston, Jamaica, at approximately three-weekly intervals. The Post Office dealt with approximately 3,200 parcels and 121,400 letters and small packets in 1959.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. also operate a radio-telephone service to Kingston, with connections to the North American mainland.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless, provides a twice-daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are also broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has 52 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

There is a tar macadam road between the Naval Facility at the north end of Grand Turk to the Air Force base at the south end, which was built by the United States authorities in 1955.

Local roads in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour are surfaced with scale from the salt ponds. This provides a hard and durable surface, although it hastens the deterioration of motor vehicles. There are no motor roads or motor vehicles in the lower Caicos Islands, where most travelling is done by sailing boat, but which have a number of tracks suitable for donkey carts. Several motor cars were imported by private persons into Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour from Miami in 1960.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals published in the islands. The Government Printing Office prints the official *Gazette* every week. Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited distribute a limited number of copies of the daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There are no Government information services, but by courtesy of Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited a Government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 11.00 a.m. This consists of a five-minute review of local news, shipping and postal services, general news and Government announcements, and is eagerly awaited each day in the Caicos settlements who regard it as their principal contact with the outside world.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between latitude 21° and 22° North and longitude 71° and $72^{\circ} 30'$ West, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been made until recently. Gradual filling of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank, as described by Dr. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938) is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos Islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called locally Blue Hills) and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamain rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank." This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (*annelida* Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier of reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches in Grand Turk, has declined and in 1959 the drought of previous years was continued and only 21.23 inches was recorded. 300,000 gallons of water was given to the Government by the United States Air Force Base. However, 1960 was comparatively wet throughout the year and a total of 46.78 inches was recorded.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour. In September, 1960 hurricane "Donna" did some damage to Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but its full force struck the Caicos Islands where it did great damage. Its accompanying tidal wave carved out a new mouth to Bottle Creek and isolated the settlement of Whitby by a lake of sea water.

Chapter 2: History

THE Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, and this theory which was once discredited has recently been put forward again. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in several of the Caicos Islands and in particular in a cave in Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while *en route* for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island," possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at "the island of Caycos." Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt "at the Island Caycos."

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November when the salt-raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, one Andrew Symmers, was appointed in 1766 "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." This was the first regularly established Government.

By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of Southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remains.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate

charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. In July, 1959, a new constitution was introduced, providing for an unofficial majority in an elected Legislative Assembly, and for an Executive Council to advise the Administrator, who administers the islands under the Governor of Jamaica, who, by virtue of his office, is also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track." During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928, 1945 and 1960, the most severe being those of 1866, 1945, and 1960. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation. From September to December, 1960, over £30,000 was spent in emergency relief, mostly in Caicos, and much remains to be done.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but with only shortlived success usually. In 1943 arrangements were made for the m.n. *Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the m.v. *Kirkland* of Honduran registry, in 1957 by the m.v. *Kirksons* and in 1960 by the m.v. *Carib Queen* (see page 35).

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company, Limited) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Limited who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Limited are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Limited established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service from Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December, 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years

before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the dependency, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways (B.W.I.A.) but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive.

In March, 1956, a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Limited. Special charter flights were operated between Kingston and Grand Turk by B.W.I.A. when required.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Limited to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the Guided Missile Base.

On 31st August, 1947, the Right Honourable Arthur Creech Jones, M.P., then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Creech Jones, paid a brief visit to Grand Turk. This was the first visit ever made to the islands by a Minister of the Crown though they had been previously honoured by a visit by a member of the Royal Family, His Royal Highness Prince George (later Duke of Kent) having visited Grand Turk in 1928 in H.M.S. *Durban* in which he was serving. On 25th March, 1960, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal called at Grand Turk in Her Majesty's Yacht *Britannia*, and spent the day here. This was the first formal visit ever made to these islands by a member of the Royal Family, and Her Royal Highness was most enthusiastically received by everyone.

On 28th July, 1955, a delegation from the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association consisting of the Right Honourable Patrick Gordon Walker, M.P. and Lady Tweedsmuir, M.P., visited Grand Turk.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head-right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the free-

hold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent. of the value of the salt exported. On 5th March, 1951, the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance was assented to by the Acting Governor of Jamaica and on 9th April, 1951, the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received the exclusive right to export salt from the islands. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry.

*Chapter 3: Administration **

THE islands are administered by an Administrator who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. During the period under review the post has been held by Mr. G. C. Guy, M.B.E. The seat of Government is at Grand Turk.

The laws of the islands are passed by the Legislative Assembly over which the Administrator presides, or in his absence, a Deputy President elected by the members of the Assembly. The Assembly consists of the Administrator, not less than two nor more than three official members, not less than two nor more than three nominated members, and nine elected members, representing nine constituencies and chosen by secret ballot and by universal adult suffrage. Subject to the assent of the Governor, the Assembly exercises full legislative and budgetary powers, but it is the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before it is introduced. Jamaica and Federal legislation may also be made applicable in the islands but it is customary for the islands to be consulted before such legislation is applied to them.

There is also an Executive Council, which the Governor and the Administrator are obliged to consult on all important matters. It consists of the Administrator when the Governor presides but not otherwise, two official and one nominated member appointed by the Governor and two elected members elected by the nominated and elected members of the Assembly from among the elected members.

* Details of the new Constitution introduced in July, 1959, are published in Statutory Instrument No. 864 of 1959. The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council, 1959.

A Government Officer is stationed at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, which are ports of entry, who maintains customs, postal and other services. The Caicos Islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales). These areas also form the constituencies for the Legislative Assembly. These District Boards normally consist of eight persons who include the District Constable, the elected member of the Legislative Assembly and the local school teacher who acts as secretary. Appointments are made by the Administrator after holding unofficial elections.

The Administrator regularly toured the Caicos settlements, some of which the Governor also visited in 1959.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible local government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Administrator for approval.

Resulting from the introduction of the new constitution in July, 1959, elections for the Legislative Assembly were held throughout the islands on 21st September, 1959. Membership of the Legislative Assembly at the end of 1960 was as follows:

Official

G. C. Guy, M.B.E.	(Administrator) President
E. T. Wood, I.S.O.	Treasurer
E. B. Johnson	Magistrate

Nominated

G. E. M. Ewing	(Cockburn Harbour)
J. N. Morgan	(Salt Cay)
R. N. F. Glennie, R.N. (ret.)	(Grand Turk)

Elected

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
L. H. Francis	(Grand Turk)
A. Smith	(Salt Cay)
W. H. Mills	(Cockburn Harbour)
E. C. Hall	(Middle Caicos)
P. S. Higgs	(Bottle Creek)
J. S. Walkin	(Bottle Creek)
H. Musgrove	(Kew)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Providenciales)

The Governor of Jamaica, who is also the Governor of the islands, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., visited Grand Turk, South Caicos, and the settlements of Bottle Creek, Kew, Whitby, the Bight, and Blue Hill from 17th to 24th March, 1959. He came again to Grand Turk from 7th to 10th October to open formally the Legislative Assembly elected under the new constitution.

In 1960 he accompanied Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on her visit of 25th March and stayed in Grand Turk until 29th March, during which time he visited Salt Cay.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force Base, the United States Naval Facility, on Grand Turk, and with the United States Coastguard Station on South Caicos.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricane of 1926 and 1928*. London, Waterlow for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, 1928.

WALTON-SMITH, F. G. *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida.* Port of Spain Caribbean Commission, 1959. (Caribbean Commission Fishery Series No. 3.)

WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry.* Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.

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APPENDIX I

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1959 and 1960

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/60	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
D235 & A & B & C	Employment of Assistant Commissioner Turks Islands Salt Company Industry Development and Marketing . . .	18,882	17,428	461
D2590	Construction of Sea Defences Grand Turk	5,000	4,966	—
D2658 (206)	Training of Oswald Arthur Smith at the Mico Training College . . .	380	337	—
D2814 & A & B	Subsidy for weekly air service covering period of 36 months from 13th March, 1956 . . .	2,548	2,548	—
D3269	Improvement in water shortage and catchment areas, Turks and Caicos Islands	25,000	24,881	2,734
D3382	Re-equipment of Turks Islands Salt Company	35,200	34,678	—
D3446(74)	Training of an Officer in Sanitation	522	335	—
D3446(76)	Training of Secretary Stenographer	170	170	—
D3448(10)	Provision of Equipment for Clinics	400	400	—
D3513	Provision of Nurses Quarters at the Grand Turks Hospital . . .	5,000	4,996	—
D3735(46)	Training of Midwives at Grand Turks Hospital	320	195	—
D3735(65)	Training of Junior Assistant to the Government Printer, Jamaica . .	180	152	—
D3741(14)	Training of two teachers at Shortwood	1,795	521	—
D3753	Provision of text books and furniture for schools	500	500	6
D3754	Refresher Courses for teachers at Grand Turk to be held during summer holidays	360	360	240
	<i>Carried forward</i>	96,257	92,467	3,441

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/60	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
	<i>Brought forward</i>	96,257	92,467	3,441
D3765	New Hospital Lighting Plant	1,700	1,366	—
D3834	Agricultural Development in the Caicos Islands:			
	Grant £4,638	4,638	1,163	
	Loan £6,000	(see below)		
D3840(14)	Purchase of Projector and Screen	475	427	—
D3840(16)	Provision of Sports equipment	150	56	—
D3840(17)	Provision of Sewing Machines for Welfare work	150	56	—
D3841(7)	Visit of Director of Extension Services, Jamaica to Turks and Caicos Islands	160	137	—
D3843	Improvement of Minor Amenities (Caicos Islands)	2,000	1,121	—
D3963	Visit of Administrator to the United Kingdom and to the United States of America and Canada to obtain technical advice on production of Fine Salt Plan and conduct a sales campaign	1,125	908	—
D3991	X-ray Unit, Grand Turk Hospital	4,800	2,138	—
D4071(66)	Training of Treasury Officer in Jamaica (E. A. Brooks)	250	—	—
D4071(67)	Training of Treasury Officer in Jamaica (Williams Jennings)	250	—	—
D4092(25)	To train a Dentist for service in the Turks and Caicos Islands	2,174	—	—
D4093(1)	Re-making Tennis Court at Vic- toria Public Library	350	—	—
D4093(17)	Providing storage for dried milk	100	—	—
D4105	Manager for Turks Islands Salt Company	8,040	1,924	—
D4483	Visit of Administrator, Turks and Caicos Islands to United King- dom	330	279	—
	<i>Carried forward</i>	122,549	102,042	3,441

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/60	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
	<i>Brought forward</i>	122,549	102,042	3,441
D4498	To train a Doctor for service in Turks and Caicos Islands	1,513	141	—
D4502	Provision for employment of an ex-patriate headmaster, Grand Turk School	4,450	—	—
D4549	Provision of wireless transmitting and receiving sets in the Caicos settlements	3,900	—	—
D4562*	Air Photography of Turks and Caicos Islands	7,000	—	—
		<u>£139,812</u>	<u>£102,183</u>	<u>£3,441</u>
		<i>Approved Loans</i>		
		£	£	£
D3428	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Company— LOAN—issued July 16, 1958	5,000	5,000	—
D3690	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Company— LOAN—issued March 5, 1959	5,000	5,000	—
D3834	Agricultural Development in Caicos Islands	6,000	—	—
D4420	Development of Fisheries in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos	750	—	—
		<u>£156,562</u>	<u>£112,183</u>	<u>£3,441</u>

* Central Geodetic and Topographical Surveys' Allocation.

APPENDIX II

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1959

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Total dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases					Pending Investigation or trial
			Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Case proved and order made without conviction	Closed undetected	
<i>Against lawful authority</i>								
Against public order . . .	162	98	10	—	80	1	7	—
Escape and rescue . . .	4	4	—	—	3	1	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>								
Rape and indecent assault . . .	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>								
Attempted murder and suicide . . .	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc. . .	22	22	2	—	18	—	1	1
Assault . . .	8	8	—	—	8	—	—	—
Other . . .	59	59	10	—	44	—	4	1
<i>Against property</i>								
Thefts and other stealings . . .	8	8	1	—	6	—	1	—
Burglary, house and store breaking . . .	4	4	1	—	3	—	—	—
Arson . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other . . .	8	8	2	—	6	—	—	—
TOTAL . . .	277	213	27	1	168	2	13	2

B: Number of Persons

	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquit- ted or dis- charged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted												Order made without proceeding to conviction					
				Total			Imprisonment			Fine											
				Juv.			Juv.			Juv.											
				M	F	M	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
<i>Against lawful authority</i>	85	4	—	—	48	14	13	6	35	6	10	6	10	8	1	—	3	—	2	—	
Against public order	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Escape and rescue																					
<i>Against public morality</i>																					
Rape & indecent assault	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Against the person</i>																					
Grievous harm, wound- ing, etc.	23	2	—	—	10	2	6	3	3	1	1	1	5	1	4	1	2	—	1	1	
Assaults	12	—	2	—	6	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Other	69	10	1	—	49	9	—	—	8	4	—	—	40	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	
<i>Against property</i>																					
Thefts & other stealings	10	1	—	—	5	4	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Burglary, house & store breaking	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other	8	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	217	18	3		134	34	19	9	55	12	11	7	71	20	5	1	8	2	3	1	

APPENDIX III

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1960

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police	Frivolous, vexatious or false complaint, not accepted	Total dealt with	Disposal of accepted cases				Pending investigation or trial
				Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Convicted	Case proved and order made without conviction	Closed un-detected
<i>Against lawful authority</i>	75	4	71	12	4	40	12	3
Against public order .	4	—	4	—	—	4	—	—
Escape and rescue .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape & indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc. .	25	2	23	1	2	14	—	2
Assaults .	12	—	12	—	1	9	—	2
Other .	20	—	20	2	4	14	—	—
<i>Against property</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thefts and other stealings	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking .	8	—	8	—	—	1	—	6
Arson .	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	1
Praedial larceny .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other .	4	—	4	—	—	2	—	1
<i>Other offences against the Penal Code</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery and coinage .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .	152	6	146	15	12	86	13	7

B: Number of Persons

Crime	Total arrested or sum- moned to Court	Acquit- ted or dis- charged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted												Order made without proceeding to conviction		
				Total			Imprison- ment			Corporal punishment			Fine					
				Juv.			Juv.			Juv.			Juv.					
				M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	
Against lawful authority	71	6	—	39	16	6	4	25	2	1	—	—	5	14	12	2	2	2
Against public order	4	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against public morality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape & indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Against the person	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wound- ing, etc.	30	4	—	18	4	4	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	12	3	—	—	4
Assaults	20	2	—	16	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	—	—	—
Other	25	—	—	25	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—
Against property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thefts & other stealings	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house & store breaking	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	6	—	—	5	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Offences against the Penal Code	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery and coinage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	159	13	—	107	23	12	4	44	4	3	—	—	5	63	17	2	2	2

APPENDIX IV Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1959 and 1960

Offences	Number of cases				Number of persons convicted					
	Total		Convicted		Discharged		Total			Fined
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	M	F	M	
Against Traffic Ordinance . . .	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	— 1
Against Township Ordinance . .	20	16	18	16	2	—	20	8	20	8 8
Against Liquor Ordinance . . .	11	6	9	6	2	—	5	5	5	5 4 1
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— —
Other offences	88	80	70	54	18	26	66	38	66	38 28 16
TOTAL	120	103	98	77	22	26	92	51	92	51 48 26

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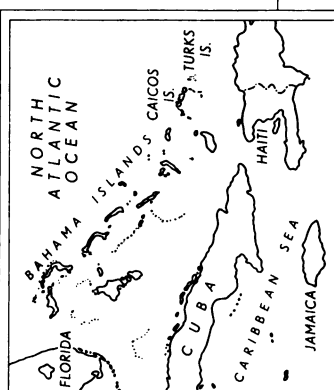
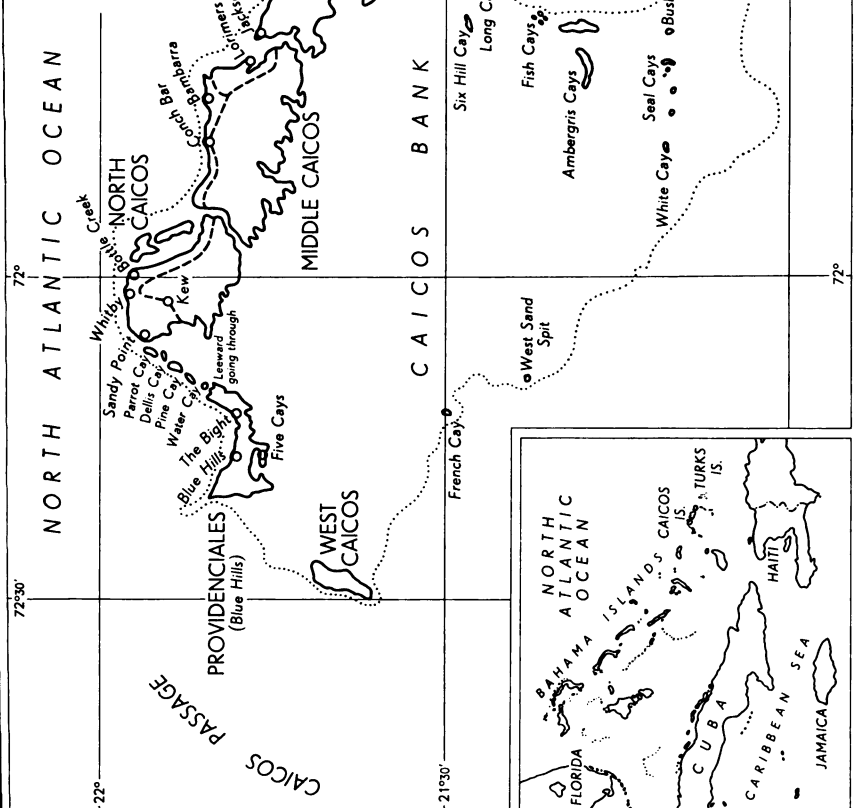
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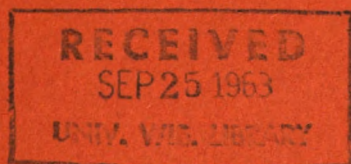
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS





Turks & Caicos Islands

1961 and 1962



LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS NET

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Report for the years
1961 and 1962

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1963

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PART I

Review of 1961 and 1962

No major event in the years 1961 and 1962 caught the public eye as did the landing at Grand Turk of Lt.-Colonel John Glenn who, in his capsule "Friendship 7," was the first man in the western world to orbit space. On 20th February 1962 Astronaut John Glenn landed at Grand Turk, the first dry land he had reached after being fired from the launching pad at Cape Canaveral and having completed three orbits of the world in space. Although it had unfortunately not been possible to arrange for the public to see Glenn on his arrival, disappointment was at once forgotten when the Vice-President of the United States of America, Mr. Lyndon Johnson, arrived at Grand Turk at 4.00 a.m. on 23rd February to escort the astronaut home. Despite the early hour of the Vice-President's arrival, and the short notice which was given of it, a large proportion of the population of Grand Turk was waiting for him at the airstrip and greeted him and John Glenn with great enthusiasm. Of all the receptions which Vice-President and astronaut were later to receive, perhaps none would be smaller but certainly none would be warmer or more sincere than that given by the people of Grand Turk on their departure in the early morning of 23rd February. Glenn's triumph was repeated soon after by Commander Scott Carpenter who landed on 24th May. Fortuitously, a Legislative Assembly meeting was then in session at Grand Turk with the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, and members were able to meet both Scott Carpenter, as well as Glenn and other members of the astronaut team who were in Grand Turk to welcome Scott Carpenter safely back to earth.

The years 1961 and 1962 saw great political activity in the West Indies. While there was little local demand for a change in the circumstances of the Turks and Caicos Islands, much time and thought had to be devoted to studying and adapting to the proposed developments in the West Indies and particularly in Jamaica, on which these islands had so largely depended since 1873. Inevitably, this concentration on political issues overshadowed other activities and although it had little bearing on day to day life in the islands, it consumed energies which might otherwise have been used to more lasting benefit.

The great political debate began in December 1960 when a delegation from the Legislative Assembly led by the Administrator and Treasurer and consisting of one nominated member, Lt.-Cmdr. R. N. F. Glennie, R.N. (ret.), and two elected members, Mr. R. E. Basden and Mr. W. H. Mills, went to Jamaica to discuss with the Deputy Governor General and the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources, who was responsible for the affairs of the Turks and Caicos Islands, how these islands could best join the Federation of The West Indies. Since Jamaica was to be a member, and since these islands had been so dependent on Jamaica as to make life without her difficult to envisage, there was obviously little practical alternative except to seek some association with the Federal territories. But the islands could obviously not expect in the near future to become a unit of the West Indian Federation in the same way as the other island units. Small, not economically viable, they were still some distance from internal self-government. So it was proposed that they become an associated territory of the Federation and that sovereignty be transferred from Britain to the Federal Government to be administered under the reserved powers of the Governor-General, with special provisions for the protection of their salt and sisal markets, for administering grant-in-aid and for maintaining the existing links with Jamaica.

When the delegation returned to discuss the proposals with the other members of the Legislative Assembly and with the public, some reluctance to transfer the sovereignty of the islands from Britain became apparent; in particular, there was much hesitancy over the thought of surrendering British nationality in exchange for West Indian and in using West Indian passports instead of British. In a community which relies so greatly on sending labour to work abroad, whether to the Bahamas, or to the United States of America, or as seamen to work in ships, the proposed change from a British to a West Indian passport gave cause for an alarm which had not been foreseen.

To help allay these doubts, Mr. G. Arthur Brown, then the Director of the Central Planning Unit in Jamaica, was invited to visit the islands for discussions with the Legislative Assembly at the end of March 1961. His exposition did not command the whole-hearted assent of the Assembly who voiced attachment to Britain, to its flag, its national anthem, its passport, its grant-in-aid and its impartial form of Government which it had administered for so long in the islands. It was thus a somewhat reluctant delegation, again led by the Administrator and the Treasurer, and comprising in addition one nominated member, Lt.-Cmdr. R. N. F. Glennie,

R.N. (ret.), and three elected members, Mr. R. E. Basden, Mr. P. S. Higgs, and Mr. W. H. Mills, which went to Trinidad at the beginning of May 1961 for the inter-Governmental conference which all the federating territories attended. Before attending the discussions the Turks and Caicos delegation sought and obtained an assurance from the British observers at the Conference that the proper course for the islands in all the circumstances was to join the Federation.

But it was not possible in the conference at Trinidad, owing to shortage of time, to deal with the affairs of the islands, although, before the conference dispersed, the delegation discussed with the Federal Prime Minister, Sir Grantley Adams, and his cabinet, the basis of association which had been proposed in Jamaica in December 1960: this the cabinet were prepared to accept, and to recommend for acceptance to the conference which was to assemble at Lancaster House in London in June 1961.

After only a few days at home, a delegation again set forth for London. This time the delegation consisted of only the Administrator, the Treasurer and one elected member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. P. S. Higgs. At this conference all the terms which had been sought to give the islands as fair a position as possible were generously accepted without question. When the delegation returned home, the proposals were unanimously approved by the Legislative Assembly on 12th July.

However, in a referendum held on 20th September, Jamaica decided not to join the Federation but to become independent on her own. It seemed obvious that the Federation in the form proposed could not continue. The problem which now confronted the Turks and Caicos Islands was whether to remain a British colony, or to ask for the sovereignty of the islands to be transferred, for a five-year period in the first instance, to Jamaica, when she became independent, so as to preserve the links of trade and aid which had grown up over the years.

Yet, in spite of constant help spread over many fields of activity, the link between Jamaica and the islands was more tenuous than it might have seemed. A few who could afford it sent their children to school there, but the majority looked towards the Bahamas and the United States of America where lay the avenues of employment and opportunity. Although the link with Jamaica had been in existence since 1873, few Jamaicans had come to the islands in a private capacity, and few Turks Islanders had gone to Jamaica. Apart from the export of salt and sisal in return for essential supplies—artificially bolstered trade—there was no movement of peoples, and no

natural trade route between Jamaica and the islands, for they are 450 miles apart on each side of the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti.

There was thus room for doubt as to the wisest course to follow, for no-one wished to sever either the Jamaican or the British tie. On 23rd October the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, visited the islands, and the available alternatives were thoroughly explored with the Legislative Assembly and at public meetings. As a result of his visit, another delegation went from the islands in December to meet Mr. N. W. Manley, the then Prime Minister of Jamaica, to discuss on what terms the islands could join Jamaica when she became independent. This delegation again consisted of the Administrator, the Treasurer, and two elected members of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. P. S. Higgs and Mr. W. H. Mills. Although during the six weeks that had elapsed since the Governor's visit, it had become apparent that opinion was hardening in favour of remaining a British colony, it was nevertheless thought right to find out from the Jamaican Government the terms on which an association with her would be possible, so that the people of the islands could make a free choice with as much information as possible at their disposal.

At this December meeting in Jamaica, it was suggested that the basis for association would be the transfer of sovereignty to the Jamaica Government for five years, at the end of which time the islands might revert to Britain at their wish or at the wish of Jamaica, or might, by mutual agreement, renew the association for a further period of five years before deciding whether it should be continued on a permanent basis.

The Administrator, on his return from this meeting, toured all the Caicos settlements to describe to as many people as possible the alternatives which were open and the terms on which it was hoped an association with Jamaica could be achieved. On Friday 13th April 1962 the Legislative Assembly debated this question and unquestionably reached the highest standard of debate it had attained for many years. After a thorough and exhaustive discussion, a resolution was passed expressing their gratitude to the Jamaican Government for the help which had been received in past years and their hope that similar assistance would be possible in the future, but stating that the islands would remain a British colony.

Since Jamaican independence was due on 6th August, the existing constitution, which had been drawn up only in 1959 to facilitate the entry of the islands into the Federation and to reduce the constitutional links with Jamaica to the person of the Governor, had again

to be redrafted in haste. The principal alteration was to place in the hands of the Administrator most of the powers previously exercised by the Governor.

It was necessary also to make interim administrative arrangements until there could be final discussions with the Jamaican Government on the form of assistance it could offer to the Turks and Caicos Islands. For this purpose the Administrator visited Jamaica in July and arranged with the officials of the Jamaican Government to continue certain essential services.

Shortly afterwards Mr. G. O. Lightbourne represented the islands at Jamaica's independence celebrations on 6th August, and presented the Prime Minister with an engraved silver inkstand. It was a moving event for many here who realised that a long epoch in the history of the islands, in that of Jamaica, and in that of the whole West Indies had come to an end.

Mr. E. G. Donohoe of the Colonial Office visited the islands in October to discuss political problems. Together with the Administrator and the Treasurer, he went to Jamaica in November to work out details of possible Jamaican assistance with an official working party: the results of this discussion were awaiting approval by the Jamaican Cabinet and by Britain at the end of the year. It was proposed that the financial obligations towards the islands which Jamaica had hitherto shouldered would be borne in future by Britain and existing debts would be taken over: Jamaica would permit the continued use of her currency and Court of Appeal: she would continue to provide staff for service on secondment to the islands, provided the full cost of doing so was met and provided the staff themselves were available and would freely volunteer to come. Other services such as medical facilities for Turks Island patients in Jamaican hospitals, maintenance of prisoners on long-term sentences, of lepers and of the mentally afflicted, would be provided in Jamaican institutions and the only charge to the islands would be the daily cost of maintenance. Technical advice would also be provided, including visits of staff for short periods provided that all additional expenses were met by the islands. Finally it was agreed that a market would be maintained for sisal and for coarse salt, and would be found for fine salt of an acceptable quality and price.

Under the 1959 constitution the life of the legislature, elected by universal adult suffrage, was three years, and the Legislative Assembly would have come to the end of its term in October 1962. In view of the political changes and of the new constitution introduced on 6th August, it was desirable to hold elections as soon as possible. So the Legislative Assembly was dissolved on 7th August

and the election was held on 12th September in all constituencies. As the census of 1960 had revealed a shift in the population, Law No. 3 of 1962 reduced the seats at Bottle Creek from two to one, and increased those in Grand Turk from two to three. As in 1959, the main difficulty was that of communication to and between the remote Caicos settlements. The Administrator toured all settlements between 8th and 22nd August to explain election procedure, the significance of the constitutional changes and the proposed introduction of a "membership" system. Perhaps for this reason the poll in Caicos was high—74 per cent in Kew, 65 per cent in Providenciales and Bottle Creek, 55 per cent in Middle Caicos, 53 per cent in Salt Cay, 51 per cent in South Caicos, and only, disappointingly, 40 per cent in Grand Turk.

A surprising and unforeseen result of the election was the return of only three of the elected members of the previous Assembly, six out of nine losing their seats. At its first meeting on 3rd October, the new Assembly elected as members of the Executive Council the two members who had served since 1959, and to them was entrusted additional responsibility in Government matters under the membership system. One member was to take particular interest in Public Works and Social Services, including Education, Health and Internal Communications, and the other in Trade and Production, including Agriculture, Fisheries, Labour recruitment, Tourism, Harbour and Pilotage. The function of these members was to be as yet advisory and not executive.

Although economic activity continued relatively high during the period, there were grounds for concern that this might not continue in the future. Hurricane Donna in September 1960 had been a considerable check to the salt and sisal industries and, although the level of employment offered by the Salt Company was no less than in previous years, its sales prospects offered little encouragement at the end of 1962. Also National Bulk Carriers Inc., who since 1959 had employed up to 100 seamen a year, ceased to recruit and sent many employees back home. This was mainly due to a decline in world shipping and the laying up of a certain amount of tonnage. From the middle of 1962 it became necessary to consider what other employment could be offered to these returning seamen, the loss of whose remittances home became noticeable by the end of the year. Again, higher unemployment in Nassau, where many islanders find their livelihood, meant less money sent home. Then 1962 was a year of the most severe drought, there being less than one inch of rain from January to July and only 12 inches in the whole year. Had it not been for the distribution of water at Grand Turk and Salt Cay

generously supplied by the U.S. Guided Missile Base, there would have been much suffering and privation: as it was, there were crop failures everywhere in the Caicos settlements and additional relief funds had to be spent there. The slackening of employment was in part disguised by the comparatively large sums spent on hurricane reconstruction, which were widely spread through the community, and by the rise in wages paid to local employees at the United States Air Force Guided Missile Base—these numbered between 60 and 70 throughout the year, and their wages were raised to the level of local employees at the Guided Missile Stations in the Bahama Islands.

However, in the midst of this gloom, towards the end of 1962 the United States Government agreed to an annual immigrant quota of 100 islanders. It was also hoped that the shell factory, which processed shells and manufactured shell novelties for the American market at Cockburn Harbour in South Caicos for a few months in 1961, would reopen in 1963.

The story of the salt industry during this period is one of trying to overcome the serious obstacles created by hurricane damage followed, first by unseasonal and heavy rain, and then by mechanical breakdowns: unfortunately this interrupted sales to the company's largest customer in the United States who had perforce to seek supplies elsewhere and whose custom it seemed might be lost. Political uncertainties also were a serious handicap to the industry: at the end of the period it appeared likely that the West Indian trade which had been built upon a regular call of the vessels of the Federal Shipping Service would soon cease: the market in Jamaica for coarse salt was dwindling as the standards of living rose there and customers were able to buy refined salt which was supplied cheaply from Europe: meanwhile the company's plans for installing a fine salt plant for the West Indian and Jamaican markets could not go forward until a firm economic basis for it could be established. In spite of these obstacles, production and employment remained as high as in 1960, although it was necessary at the end of the year to seek an additional subsidy of £5,000.

The redemption of the preference shares during the period culminated the persistent attempts which had been made since 1959 to free the industry from its outside obligations, and made the Government its sole owner, free at last to negotiate its future should the opportunity arise. In 1962 also the Salt Industry Board was wound up and its assets distributed.

It had long been hoped to have a deep-water harbour at South Caicos which alone would make shipping of bulk salt economic, and an engineer arrived in the autumn of 1962 to carry out a proper

survey. This might have advantages spreading beyond the immediate interest of the salt industry, as ships might be bunkered and other industries might well be attracted.

When the United States Bases Agreement had been re-negotiated early in 1961, the Agency for International Development had promised to supply two generators, the necessary transformers and a quantity of wiring to establish an electricity supply in Grand Turk, the Government furnishing all other materials and paying the cost of installation. Two persons were trained in the U.S.A. to operate the supply, which it was hoped would be built in 1963. It was also a good augury for the future that the Bahamas Airways increased their services from once a week to twice a week from Nassau, as from October 1962. Internal, as well as external, communications were improved when a new Government launch, partly financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, was obtained to replace the launch lost in hurricane Donna, and during 1962 a regular mail and passenger service was maintained between South Caicos and Grand Turk. Also financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, the Directorate of Overseas Surveys arranged for the aerial photographing of the islands in order to produce up-to-date maps.

The emergency created by hurricane Donna in September 1960 had largely been overcome by the beginning of 1961. Food supplies had been distributed and starvation averted. Materials had been brought in to repair or rebuild the sloops, so that the Caicos settlements could again supply themselves with the necessities of life, and materials for the rebuilding of houses had been delivered, so that during the period under review, the work of reconstruction was largely accomplished. A grant of £54,000 made for the relief of private individuals coupled with the supply of materials to the remote settlements of the Caicos settlements led to the virtual rebuilding of many of them and gave a new look to all. In addition, the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for agricultural development in the Caicos Islands was rapidly implemented as an emergency measure to inject money as quickly as possible into circulation after the hurricane: the initial loan of £3 per acre of sisal planted was converted to a grant and the total sisal acreage was increased from 1,000 to 1,500 acres. This was a great help to the people of the Caicos Islands in overcoming their immediate shortage of cash, as well as in restoring much of the sisal acreage which had been destroyed by the hurricane. Such efforts were made after the hurricane to refloat the Caicos sloops that it is sad to record that

four of them, an unusually high number, were accidentally lost on separate occasions during 1962. The largest individual item of hurricane reconstruction was the building of a handsome new wharf by the Public Works Department at Cockburn Harbour where all the former wharves had been swept away.

On the social side there had been a worrying increase in juvenile delinquency. It was necessary to enforce compulsory attendance at school so that all children of school age would be subject to some discipline, and to provide activities for the young people who had already left school. The first step in this programme was taken in 1960 when a new Education Law was passed. In 1961, the Board of Education drafted new regulations to provide for compulsory attendance, as well as for the conduct and management of schools in general. Also in that year a headmaster with a degree was recruited in Barbados and he was followed by three other teachers also from Barbados. Greatly increased sums were spent on education which for the first time, at least in recent years, had more spent on it than any other head of the Annual Estimates. Side by side with the school programme, other social services were developed: with the help of the Church World Service, who recruited and paid the salary of a youth leader, a youth centre was opened at Grand Turk using the school premises after hours. Under the guidance of an Assistant Administrator, a cinema club was started showing films twice a week. This was a welcome addition to the amusement available for the young people. The Assistant Administrator also started a broadsheet of weekly news named the "Pelican" which served a useful purpose. In 1961 a cricket team from the Bahamas was invited to Grand Turk and the test match series which had been started the previous year was continued: although the Grand Turk team did not win, it acquitted itself well.

The most notable work performed by any voluntary association during the period was the building of the Child Welfare Clinic at Grand Turk solely from local contributions of money and of labour. In its way, this was a remarkable achievement and reflected great credit on the organisers. It should also be noted that an American Baptist Church established itself at South Caicos during the period, and its staff held services in many of the Caicos settlements where the Jamaica Baptist Union had been established for more than one hundred years.

Two prominent members of the Government Service retired during the period, Mr. E. T. Wood, I.S.O., J.P., who had long been the Treasurer, the senior official member of Executive Council and had often acted as Administrator, and Mr. C. S. Jones, Inspector of

Schools. Their experience, wisdom and advice were sorely missed during this period when so much fell to be done. As no replacement for the Inspector of Schools was available, it was necessary to absorb this post into the Administrator's Office, where the staff was increased by an additional Assistant Administrator. A new District Commissioner and a new Medical Officer for the Caicos Islands were also recruited, and it was hoped that the Overseas Service Aid Scheme, which was applied in 1961, would make recruitment of staff from Britain easier in future.

It is a pleasure to record that Mr. E. C. Hall, member of the Legislative Assembly for Middle Caicos, was awarded the British Empire Medal for gallantry; on 16th January 1962 he rescued all but two of the crew and passengers from the sloop *Trade Winds* which was wrecked in heavy seas on Gamble's Cut at Bambarra in Middle Caicos. This he did at great personal risk in his own sailing vessel which was not ready for sea and which carried no ballast, under weather conditions which were unsuitable even for a vessel ready for sea, the cut in the reef being obscured by breakers. Other awards during the period were made to Mrs. E. M. Simmons and Miss M. Robinson who received the Jamaican Certificate and Badge of Honour for social services in the islands, and to Mr. G. C. Guy who was awarded the O.B.E.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A census was held on 7th April 1960. The total population (*de jure*) was 5,668, of whom 3,468 lived in the salt-producing centres of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and 2,200 in the Caicos settlements; 2,557 of the total population were children below the age of 15.

The population at the last census in 1943 was 6,138. Since then the live birth rate has continued high, but there has been a steady and continuous emigration from the islands, principally to the Bahamas. Many of the young men go away; women and children more frequently stay behind, so that the ratio of females to males is 122:100. The effect of the emigration of the male population can be seen from the fact that there are approximately 1,600 females to 1,000 males at ages over twenty. This is particularly noticeable at public meetings in the Caicos Islands where women usually outnumber men by two to one. Since the establishment of the United States military bases, there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements on census day was:

Grand Turk	2,180
Salt Cay	448
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	840
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	700
Kew (North Caicos) (including Sandy Point and Whitby)	450
Blue Hills (Providenciales) (including Five Cays and the Bight)	518
Middle Caicos (including Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar)	532

The population is made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	5,315
Persons of mixed descent	216
Persons of European descent	77
Others not classified	60

The birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, and births and deaths registered during 1961 and 1962 were as follows:

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths	Natural increase
1961	247	65	182
1962	259	73	186

Migration figures were:

								1961	1962
Entered	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	917	1,101
Departed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	747	881

Seventeen marriages were registered in 1961, 19 in 1962.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE Turks Islands Salt Company, which is the chief source of employment in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos, was partly supported by Government funds and maintained the same level of activity as in previous years, in spite of setbacks caused by the hurricane, mechanical breakdowns and falling markets. The Company, as before, supported the population of Salt Cay and most of the people in South Caicos. In Grand Turk about 30 men were employed in an experimental plant for the production of fine salt, and when this was closed in the autumn of 1962, the same number were employed in producing fishery salt. Throughout 1961 and 1962 the Salt Company consistently employed a labour force of 180 persons. This continuous employment was made possible by a Government subsidy of £12,500 per annum increased in 1962 to £17,500, and by unemployment relief funds, which, where possible, were channelled through the industry. The basic wage in the industry remained at 12s. per day and unemployment relief at 9s. per day, but, through the generous provision of relief funds, it was possible to increase relief work from three to five days a week.

The number of persons employed on a semi-permanent basis at the two American bases was maintained throughout the period under review at approximately 70, 65 being employed at the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and five by the United States Naval Facility.

Crawfish and conch fishing, together with the production of sisal, continue to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands. The Caicos Fisheries Inc., a company engaged in exporting crawfish from the islands, maintained a somewhat lower level of activity than in previous years and paid out, mostly in wages to the Caicos fishermen, £18,000 in 1961 and £14,000 in 1962. In 1959, because

of the closing of the Bahama Banks, the fishermen of the Caicos developed a new source of income by supplying conch shells to American buyers. During the period a factory was set up at Cockburn Harbour to process shells and manufacture shell novelties, and although this was only in operation for a few months, it was a welcome addition to prosperity, employing about 40 persons, mainly women. Hurricane Donna destroyed the greater part of the sisal crop in September 1960, and it remained at less than half its pre-hurricane volume throughout the period under review.

Many continued to find employment overseas as in the past, and a considerable, though unknown, sum was sent by them to their dependants, particularly in the Caicos Islands.

In order to relieve unemployment, the Government, as in previous years, continued to make vigorous efforts to find work overseas and to recruit persons for it, and, during 1961, an average of 100 seamen was consistently employed by National Bulk Carriers Inc., a large American shipping company. The regular remittances sent by these seamen brought noticeable additional prosperity to the islands, and their absence did much to relieve the unemployment situation. During the latter half of 1962, falling activity in world shipping caused this company to lay up vessels and send these seamen home. The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, which had been encouraged to recruit seamen by legislation introduced in 1959 (excusing any vessel the payment of light dues provided it recruited more seamen than it discharged), took 13 seamen in 1961 and 15 in 1962. But it too was affected by the slump in world shipping and ceased to recruit from the islands in the latter part of 1962.

The Government also recruited a few stevedores to work at Freeport at Grand Bahama Island.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Piece rates are paid in the salt industry wherever possible, and an unskilled labourer may earn up to 18s. to £1 a day. Where no piece rates are paid, the standard wage in the industry was 12s. for an eight-hour day. For most forms of construction work, concrete mixing and the like, and arduous work in water, the rate is usually £1 a day. Other rates are as follows:

Carpenters, masons, etc.	. . .	35s. – 40s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	. . .	30s. – 35s. per day
Domestic servants (females)	. . .	£8 – £10 per month (usually with rations)

The agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities concerning the scale of wages paid for work at the American Bases, which had been made in 1956, was revised in 1959, and again in 1962 as follows:

<i>Group Classification</i>	<i>Minimum per hour s. d. (U.S.)</i>	<i>Maximum per hour s. d. (U.S.)</i>
I. Mechanic, carpenter, painter, mason, plumber, electrician, cook	5 0 (.70c.)	9 4 (\$1.31)
IA. Machine operator	4 0 (.56c.)	8 0 (\$1.12)
II. Laundry foreman, labour foreman, cook's assistant, supply clerk, clerk typist	3 6 (.50c.)	7 3 (\$1.01)
III. Mechanic helper, watchman, driver, stevedore	3 6 (.50c.)	5 6 (.77c.)
IV. Orderly, labourer, senior mess attendant	3 3 (.45c.)	5 3 (.74c.)
V. Mess attendant, laundress, domestic	2 3 (.31c.)	3 6 (.50c.)

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates are to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognised by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1955 s. d.</i>	<i>1960 s. d.</i>	<i>1961 s. d.</i>	<i>1962 s. d.</i>
Beef, pickled	lb.	2 10	2 10	2 10	3 6
Beans, kidney	qt.	2 6	3/0 to 3/6	3 0	3 6
Corn	qt.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Cabbage	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Cornmeal	lb.	6½	9	9	10
Condensed milk. 14 oz.		1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6
Flour	lb.	6½	6½	7	8
Lard	lb.	1 11	1 11	2 0	2 0
Margarine	lb.	2 3	2 6	2 6	2 6
Meat, Jamaican	lb.	2 9	5 0	5 0	5 6
Onions	lb.	10	1 0	1 0	1 0
Oranges	doz.	2 0	3 0	5 0	4 0
Plantains	each	4	4	4	5
Pork, pickled	lb.	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 3
Potatoes, Irish	lb.	7½	7d to 9d*	7d to 9d*	8
Powdered milk	lb.	5 10	6 3	6 3	6 3
Rice, brown	qt.	2 0	1 10	1 10	1 10
white	qt.		2 0	2 0	2 6
Sugar, granulated	lb.	8½	9½	9½	10½

* These prices vary due to seasonal changes.

Although the prices of basic foods have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods, are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage of suitable housing on Grand Turk, and the increased demand brought by the American Bases, rents have remained high.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the island, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom, first approved at the end of 1955, was continued until the end of 1958, when responsibility for it was assumed by the Federal Government until the middle of 1962. £107,073 was made available in 1961 (about £88,625 being actually required) and £106,635 was provided in 1962.

There is no authorised public debt.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four financial years (which are the same as calendar years) are shown in the following tables:

	REVENUE			
	1959 Actual	1960 Actual	1961 Actual	1962 (Revised Estimate)
	£	£	£	£
Customs	41,109	38,039	45,150	44,800
Port Dues	1,549	1,527	1,577	1,450
Licences and other Internal Revenue	1,441	1,639	1,620	1,600
Fees of Court and Office	1,254	979	961	1,920
Departmental Revenue	540	442	452	730
Reimbursements	2,369	3,209	4,237	3,731
Post Office	9,087	18,053	6,680	6,100
Interest	965	1,250	1,216	1,392
Miscellaneous	2,498	2,178	2,209	2,585
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	60,812	67,316	64,102	64,308
Industries	8,099	—	—	—
Land Sales	—	—	250	—
Grand-in-aid of Administra- tion	85,401	102,879	107,073	106,635
Sale of Investments Motor Launch Replacement Fund	—	—	7,007	6,185
Insurance Motor Launch Princess Pat	—	—	12,375	—
1960 Hurricane Donna Re- construction Programme	—	26,674	44,219	18,933

*Turks and Caicos Islands*REVENUE—*continued*

	1959 <i>Actual</i>	1960 <i>Actual</i>	1961 <i>Actual</i>	1962 <i>(Revised) Estimate</i>
	£	£	£	£
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	—	—	—	3,155
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes . . .	23,235	10,490	21,889	35,266
TOTAL REVENUE	£177,547	£207,359	£256,915	£234,482

EXPENDITURE

Pensions	2,680	3,264	4,721	3,606
Administrator's Department . .	19,044	16,614	14,317	19,938
Treasury and Customs	7,943	8,816	9,658	10,880
Judicial Department	4,487	4,430	4,950	4,846
Police Department	7,009	8,373	10,076	11,933
Prison Department	1,961	2,335	3,026	3,250
Medical Department	13,278	15,512	15,721	20,727
Paupers and Lunatics	1,079	1,184	1,733	1,815
Education	12,786	13,406	14,831	20,905
Miscellaneous	7,117	8,974	12,053	12,184
Post Office	4,214	7,456	5,967	7,063
Lighthouses	1,515	1,314	1,547	2,984
Savings Bank	382	604	612	677
Public Works Department	2,682	2,970	4,260	3,285
Public Works Recurrent	4,790	4,688	5,692	5,400
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	90,967	99,940	109,164	129,493
Public Works Extraordinary . . .	8,360	8,771	12,511	5,950
Land and Property Purchases . .	—	3,642	—	—
Unemployment Relief	16,694	16,938	16,932	17,000
Drought	436	—	497	700
Subsidy to Salt Company	12,500	12,500	12,500	17,500
Industries	6,726	—	—	700
Industrial Development	—	—	1,373	—
Payment for Salt Stocks	—	6,590	—	—
Motor Launch Replacement Fund Investment	—	—	12,375	—
Purchase of Motor Launch <i>Sea Horse</i>	—	—	7,101	6,092
Electricity Project	—	—	—	600
Redemption Preference Shares in the Turks Islands Salt Company Ltd.	—	—	—	21,251
Survey of Deep Water Har- bour at Cockburn Harbour	—	—	—	3,000
1960 Hurricane Donna Re- construction Programme	—	28,649	42,244	18,933
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	—	—	—	3,155
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	20,360	10,067	24,330	35,266
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	156,043	187,097	239,027	259,640*

*£25,251 of 1962 approved expenditure to be met from surplus grant-in-aid in former years.

The long drawn out negotiation over the redemption of the preference shares in the Turks Islands Salt Company was at last completed and the Government redeemed the 53,186 preference shares for 8s. a share with effect from December 1961 (see page [23].)

Financial assistance from the Jamaica Government included payment of half the salaries of the staff of the Grand Turk Hospital and of the two medical officers, a contribution to the cost of the drugs used, and a grant to the Child Welfare Association to provide subsidised milk for children up to six years of age. This was continued until Jamaica's independence on 6th August 1962.

No direct taxation is levied in the islands, there being no poll, income or property tax.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations, the Jamaica Government having agreed to the use of its currency after independence. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaica Notes	50,000
Jamaica Nickel	100
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the islands. The Government Savings Bank in its three branches at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay held £109,514 in 1,400 accounts on 31st December 1962. A comparative statement during the last five years is as follows:

	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Withdrawals</i>	<i>Amount due Depositors</i>	<i>Number of Accounts</i>
	£	£	£	
1958	32,093	32,048	70,766	2,010
1959	58,808	51,657	79,599	1,440
1960	61,842	48,689	94,662	1,548
1961	89,883	75,261	111,530	1,326
1962	70,796	74,812	109,514	1,400

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports and exports during the last four years was as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
	£	£	£	£
Imports	189,132	216,686	225,914	249,902
Exports	76,580	88,463	57,503	64,827

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past four years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1959	21,248	83,676	84,208	189,132
1960	23,381	96,360	96,945	216,686
1961	25,045	99,678	101,191	225,914
1962	31,267	96,723	121,912	249,902

The main types of imports for the years 1959–62 were:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco .	110,459	132,551	136,575	159,185
Raw materials	11,975	13,550	14,723	6,656
Manufactured articles . .	62,020	66,032	69,158	70,899
Unclassified	4,678	4,553	5,458	13,162

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
	%	%	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco .	48	48	50	50
Raw materials	56	55	57	36
Manufactured articles . .	36	35	65	60
Unclassified	38	40	48	28

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Jamaica</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1959	21,879	10,888	43,813	76,580
1960	15,192	8,613	64,658	88,463
1961	14,939	6,490	36,074	57,503
1962	12,637	7,597	44,593	64,827

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

			1959	1960	1961	1962
Salt						
tons	.	.	19,095	31,717	16,151	21,098
value	.	.	£32,221	£45,347	£26,897	£30,400
Conchs (dried)						
number	.	.	1,664,400	912,800	1,078,900	1,012,800
value	.	.	£5,466	£2,833	£3,807	£3,477
Conchs (frozen)						
lb.	.	.	4,260	7,800	2,000	—
value	.	.	£192	£477	£58	—
Crawfish						
lb.	.	.	92,268	102,020	64,210	79,202
value	.	.	£29,026	£32,433	£20,176	£24,916
Sisal						
tons	.	.	81	41	30	32
value	.	.	£8,505	£4,100	£3,000	£3,360
Scalefish						
lb.	.	.	3,000	—	—	—
value	.	.	£82	—	—	—
Conch shells						
number	.	.	304,600	348,454	427,344	336,376
value	.	.	£1,088	£3,253	£3,565	£2,674
Sponge						
lb.	.	.	—	320	—	—
value	.	.	—	£20	—	—

ORGANISATION OF IMPORT TRADE

During the war the Food Control Department undertook most of the import trade, financed by an advance of £50,000 from the Jamaica Treasury. After the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and in November 1952 the department was converted into a Government-owned limited liability company known as Turks Islands Importers Limited. In 1955 the company, together with liability for repaying the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding, was taken over by private enterprise. This firm is still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available.

Price control powers may be exercised by the Administrator under the Trade Law, 1960, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

REMITTANCES

Remittances from abroad which passed through the hands of the Treasury for distribution totalled £32,500 in 1961 and £36,000 in 1962.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

THE production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the traditional and the basic industry of the islands. Production is carried on at the three salt islands, Grand, Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production.

Four grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica; and fine salt for domestic use in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, and the granulated and fine salt in bags.

For many years the salt industry has been in decline. Salt is a cheap commodity and has to be produced on a large scale and by mechanical means in order to compete in world markets, whereas the industry in the islands is on a small scale operating principally from Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay, separated by 22 and eight miles of sea respectively from the headquarters at Grand Turk. None of the salt islands has an adequate harbour, nowhere can vessels drawing more than six feet of water come alongside a wharf, and loading may frequently be interrupted by bad weather conditions. Even South Caicos, which offers the largest quantity of salt for shipment, is badly exposed to the prevailing strong south-east wind. Apart from this, ships are reluctant to call for cargoes of salt because the islands are too small to offer inward cargoes, and they must needs travel there, for at least some distance, in ballast.

The Turks Islands Salt Company was formed by the Government with the agreement of the private salt proprietors in 1951. It was hoped that by forming a company to control the entire industry, funds would be available to rationalise and develop it; in the event, these expectations were not realised: in every year since 1951 the company has operated much below capacity and has been heavily subsidised, because being the major employer and the principal producer of income for those who live in these islands, there was little alternative except to keep the industry in operation.

When the company was formed all the ordinary £1 shares, 62,814, were vested in the Government, and 53,186 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent £1 cumulative preference shares were issued to the proprietors to represent two-thirds of an independent valuation of their property, one-third having been paid in cash. Small properties valued at £200 or less were fully paid for in cash unless the owners preferred to accept preference shares.

It was intended the company would eventually redeem the preference shares, and, based upon an agreement with the proprietors the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance, 1950, Ordinance No. 2 of 1951, provided that the preference shares would be redeemable any time after 31st December 1960 until 31st December 1980, and, if not redeemed before that date, would then be redeemable at a price of 21s. per 20s. share. As the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951, provides that preference shares shall not be redeemed except out of the profits of a company which would otherwise be available for dividend, or out of the proceeds of a fresh issue of shares made for the purpose of redemption, and since the Turks Islands Salt Company had made no profit since it was formed, and no profit seemed likely in the foreseeable future, the preference shareholders could not hope that their shares would be redeemed as they had confidently expected in 1951.

After protracted discussions with the Secretary of State and with the Federal Government, it was agreed that provided savings of £21,250 in the Turks Islands Government current estimates for 1961 could be made, or provided that this amount could be covered by additional revenue, the preference shareholders could be offered the sum of 8s. per share, it being calculated that at a rate of interest of 5 per cent per annum, 8s. would be equivalent to 21s. by 1980. Since the company having made no profit had paid no dividend to preference shareholders since its inception in 1951, and shares could only be redeemed by 1980 if the company then made a sufficient profit, it was much to the shareholders' advantage to accept the offer of 8s. per share and they were accordingly circularised on 30th October 1961. Under the articles of association, any proposal affecting the rights and privileges of the preference shares required the assent of the holders of 75 per cent of these shares. By November, although the shareholders were widely scattered, an overwhelming majority had been received. Approval to spend the funds was given by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting on 6th December, which on the same day passed the amendment to the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance, 1950 to make the preference shares finally redeemable on 31st December 1961 at 8s. per 20s. share.

Thus the ownership of the salt industry once more became vested in the hands of Government. There had been considerable difficulty in the last few years in freeing the industry of the obligations which had been accepted when the company was set up in 1951. The first move had been made when the Colonial Development Corporation surrendered its debenture for £60,000 in 1959; the second when in 1960 the Federal Government approved funds to pay off in full £6,590 which the company still owed to the salt proprietors for the stocks of salt taken over in 1951; and the last when the preference shares were redeemed.

In September 1962 the Salt Industry Board, which had been inactive since the company had been formed, was wound up and its assets distributed. This board had been set up to manage the common affairs of the industry, such as the maintenance of property, water courses and shipping areas, held in common, to maintain the quality of the product, to collect payments from the producers and to distribute payments to them.

Up to January 1958 salt was loaded in ships mainly by traditional methods, i.e. by shovels, half bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and salt lighters, and it was impossible by this means to load more than 600 tons a day. In order to obtain ships on charter, it was necessary to guarantee a loading rate of 1,000 tons per weather working day, so mechanical equipment was bought with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £35,000. But this equipment brought persistent problems in its train. It was difficult to obtain reliable men to operate and maintain it, for few mechanics with the necessary knowledge were available, there were poor workshop facilities, and no slipway for the barges: communication with the outside world was so unreliable that it was difficult to obtain spare parts quickly and lacking experience it was also difficult to know in advance which spare parts were likely to be needed. During 1959 and 1960 while the equipment was still new it operated well. But in September 1960 hurricane Donna completed the damage to salinas, sea walls, etc. done by earlier rains; and much emergency work had to be done at Cockburn Harbour to make good the damage. By March 1961 it seemed that a good crop of salt could be expected, despite the damage: then there was an unseasonal fall of eight inches of rain in less than eight hours and production was set back again. No sooner was this surmounted than, owing to faulty maintenance, there was a breakdown of both front-end loaders at the same time. Spare parts could not be obtained for three months, during which time no salt could be raked from the pans nor could any salt be shipped from the stock piles left from the previous year. As a result, cargoes had to be

refused, and it is estimated that sales of at least £10,000 were lost. More serious still, customers were refused who had agreed to take substantially increased quantities of salt in 1961 and 1962. By the middle of 1962 it became apparent that the markets in New England which the company had enjoyed for several years were in jeopardy and perhaps were unlikely to be regained.

Despite these disasters, 30,000 tons were produced in 1961 and 32,000 tons in 1962 (exports amounted to 16,000 and 21,000 tons respectively, see page 21). However, the equipment was deteriorating rapidly, and it was necessary to order four new Bedford dump trucks; a compressor was also purchased to assist the maintenance of other equipment, and to help harvest the deep water salt in the Victoria Salina which could not be raked by ordinary methods.

Because of the loss of sales and of the necessity to incur additional expenditure on mechanical equipment, it was necessary to obtain a further subsidy of £5,000 at the end of 1962, in addition to the other annual subsidies which totalled about £28,000.

Plans had been drawn up in 1959 and a Colonial Development and Welfare grant approved for the establishment of a fine salt plant. It was hoped that the Federation of The West Indies, to which the islands belonged, would give a protected market for fine salt of up to 15,000 tons a year, thus enabling the industry to maintain itself without either subsidies or other external markets. After the dissolution of the Federation, the Jamaican Government agreed at negotiations held in November 1962 to ensure a substantial market for both coarse and fine salt. The possibility of a firm in Jamaica taking over the management of the proposed fine salt plant was examined but the size of the industry was insufficient to warrant the firm's interest. Meanwhile technical difficulties over the manufacture of some of the machinery necessitated a revision of the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme of 1959.

Despite the difficulties, there are still plans and hopes for the future. It has been proposed that Salt Cay and Grand Turk produce fishery salt in some volume in order to try and recapture some of the trade of the Canadian Maritime Provinces in the spring of 1963, and plans for a new plant have been devised to produce fine salt on a small scale for the Jamaican market and to produce fishery salt on a larger and more economic scale. Finally it has long been the dream of the industry to have a deep-water harbour at Cockburn Harbour. This in many ways would be the salvation of the industry and would reduce shipping costs sufficiently to make the product competitive. The first step was to invite H.M.S. *Troubridge*, when

on a visit in 1961, to take soundings and make a preliminary survey: this was so encouraging that the Federal Government kindly supplied funds to have a professional survey made. This was done in September 1962, and the engineer's report was eagerly awaited at the end of the year, for the future of the industry, and perhaps of the islands also, seemed to depend on whether a deep-water harbour was feasible at a reasonable cost.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and volume of salt shipments in 1961 and 1962:

SALT SHIPMENTS

<i>Destination</i>	<i>1961</i>		<i>1962</i>	
	<i>Quantity (tons)</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Quantity (tons)</i>	<i>Value £</i>
Canada	1,411	1,967	4,273	5,713
United States	6,085	6,432	10,142	10,676
Jamaica	5,168	11,939	3,890	9,276
Federation of The West Indies	2,180	4,523	908	1,884
Martinique	1,200	1,875	1,850	2,799
Haiti	107	161	35	52
	<hr/> 16,151	<hr/> £26,897	<hr/> 21,098	<hr/> £30,400

FISHERIES

The fisheries of the islands have continued to be of great importance, particularly to the Caicos settlements. Prior to hurricane Donna about two million dried conchs used to be exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they were sold for an average price of about \$U.S. 14.00 per thousand; but during the period under review, exports fell to about half, owing to the destruction of local craft during the hurricane. These conch sales are the basis of a flourishing two-way trade in which vegetables, fruit and other supplies are brought back.

The crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank, although also at a lower level of activity than in immediately preceding years, remained second only to the salt company in its importance to the islands. Sparring of crawfish was prohibited in 1959 and replaced by trapping in lobster pots and by bully netting. Up to 12 Jamaican fishermen, experienced in handling pots, were retained by Caicos Fisheries Ltd. to demonstrate their technique to local fishermen.

Other fisheries are undeveloped, sponges remain few and far between, and fresh fish is not easy to obtain in any of the major settlements.

The export of conchshells to Florida (where they are used in decoration) was resumed in 1959, when the Bahamas forbade the export of conch shells from the Bahama Banks. In order to control exports, an exclusive licence was issued to the Shell Factory of Fort Lauderdale, the proprietor of which bought a vessel, the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory*, to run regularly between the islands and Florida, exporting shells and bringing in supplies, thus making a substantial contribution to the supply position, as well as to employment in the Caicos Islands. A small factory was also set up at Cockburn Harbour, employing up to 40 women to process shells before export and to manufacture shell novelties. Although this operated only for a few months in 1961, it was hoped it would be started up again.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the American bases account for a large part of the available land, and there has also been some increase in building. There is, however, no great demand for agricultural land, as during the past few years lack of rain has discouraged much planting.

In the Caicos Islands there is no shortage of land, but the soil is of poor quality and here, too, water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these "plantations" as they are called locally. Apart from grants of land made by the Government to the original settlers, much of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental. Leases were drawn up for nearly 1,500 acres of Crown land for use by farmers in connection with the Colonial Development and Welfare agricultural development scheme.

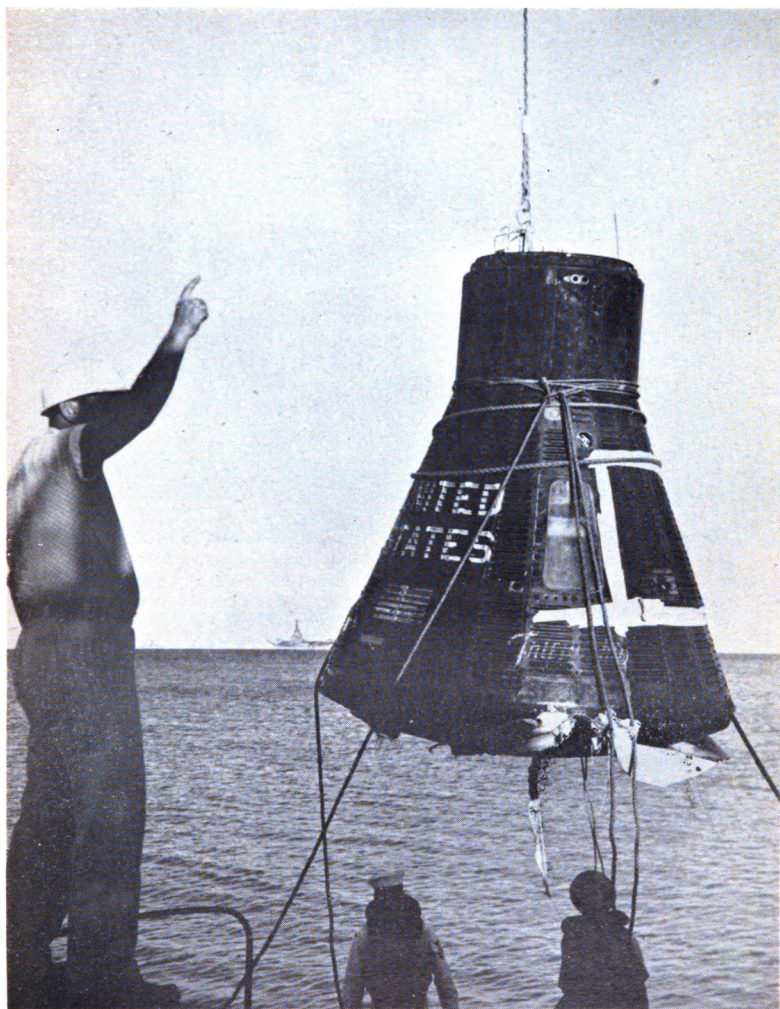
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the salt islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problems are the saline conditions and the uncertain rainfall; in 1959 drought spoiled the crops; in 1960 the second harvest, expected in December, was spoiled by the hurricane which inundated the land with salt; although 1961 was a year of high rainfall, the damage done by the hurricane resulted in poor crops and the drought in 1962 was exceptionally severe.

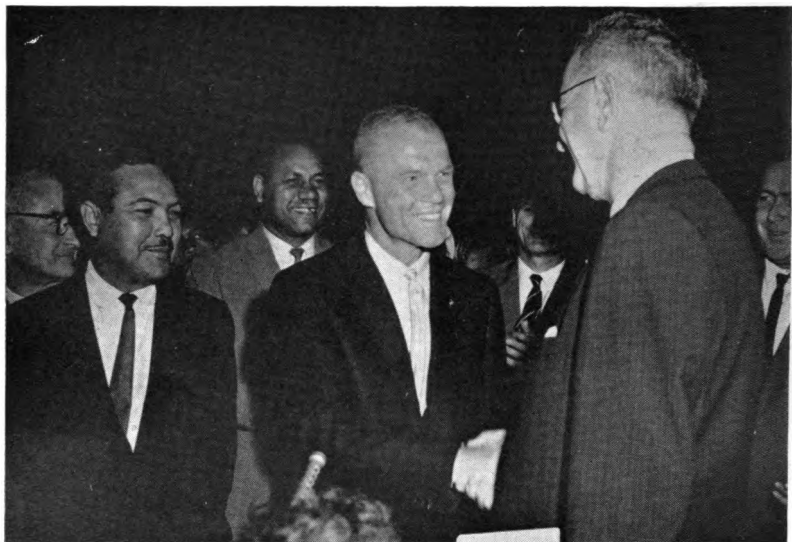
Sisal is the main cash crop and a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful and a considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Exports had been 81 tons in 1959. In 1960, owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane and the loss of local sloops which carried the fibre, exports dropped to 41 tons, and fears that it would take fully three years to restore output to its former level were justified, as only 30 tons were exported in 1961 and 32 tons in 1962. The quality of the sisal is poor and it is unlikely ever to be first grade so long as the retting has to be done in salt water, but the fibre has a protected market in Jamaica.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are killed to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American bases and keep pigs of an improved quality.

Despite hurricane damage and the ensuing difficulties of transport, much progress was made with the Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for agricultural development in the Caicos Islands which had been introduced in 1959. It had then been planned to increase substantially the area planted with sisal by offering a loan to farmers of £3 per acre to be paid in the first year of new cultivation and £1 10s. 0d. per acre to be paid in each of the second and third years. It was hoped to provide for an additional 1,000 acres and the loan would be repayable over the fourth, fifth and sixth years. To alleviate the distress caused by the hurricane, the initial loan payment of £3 per acre was converted into a free grant, and a supplementary Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was very quickly introduced to provide a further 500 acres under this scheme. All this was soon taken up. As part of this scheme also, funds were provided to supply fertiliser at a subsidised price at the rate of 100 lb. for each acre newly planted with sisal eligible for the loan, and a decorticator was provided in order to improve the quality of the fibre. Six thousand dwarf coconuts were imported and distributed for planting and a subsidy of £5, spread over three years, was offered for each acre planted with coconuts. Many of these coconuts were unfortunately swept away in the tidal wave which followed the hurricane and additional coconuts were supplied during the period to help make good this damage. One bull and three heifers were imported to establish a revolving cattle scheme, whereby the owner of a heifer returns the first female calf to the Government, to give to another person.



Friendship 7, the space capsule in which Astronaut John Glenn orbited the earth, arriving at Grand Turk on 21st February 1962. The aircraft carrier which brought it can be seen in the background



The Vice-President of the U.S.A., Mr. Lyndon Johnson, with members of the Executive Council greeting Astronaut John Glenn at Grand Turk on 23rd February 1962. Left to right are Mr. G. P. Cammiade, Mr. R. E. Basden, Mr. A. A. Tatem, Lt.-Colonel John Glenn Mr. G. C. Guy (the Administrator), and the Vice-President



Astronaut Scott Carpenter leaving Grand Turk after his orbital flight. Left to right are Mr. G. C. Guy, the Administrator, Mr. J. Collins, Operations Manager of the U.S.A.A.F. Guided Missile Base, and Lt.-Commander Scott Carpenter



(Photograph by Wechsler)

*The office of the Administrator, the Treasury, the Post Office and the
Legislative Assembly Chamber, Grand Turk*



Digitized by Google
(Photograph by Wechsler)



The Beauty Queen crowned by the Administrator at the Child Welfare Association Dance 1962



The Victoria Public Library

(Photograph by Wechsler)

The cost of employing an Agricultural Extension Officer, who had been recruited in 1959 to oversee this programme, was transferred to the budget in 1962. Difficulties in obtaining transport between the settlements were continuous and much work had still to be done to define the areas of land which persons wished to use, to register Crown land and to draw up leases for it. It was hoped that the fruits of this scheme would start to appear in 1964 and 1965 in increased tonnages of sisal shipped, and an agreement was sought from the Jamaican Government at the close of 1962 to increase the amount of sisal it was willing to import from the islands. It seemed however that the hard conditions after the hurricane may have stimulated emigration of much of the available labour force.

MINING

In August 1961 and 1962 the oil exploration licence, which was originally granted to the Bahama California Oil Company in 1955, was renewed and reissued for a further year.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the islands is under the control of the Board of Education appointed by the Administrator under the Education Ordinance. The Administrator is chairman of the Board. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature. During 1960 a law amending the Education Ordinance was passed, giving the Board of Education control over private schools and also authority to enforce compulsory attendance of all children of school age (7-14 years). Comprehensive new Regulations were published by the Board of Education in 1962 to enforce compulsory attendance, and to prescribe both the teachers' conditions of service and the conduct and management of schools. For the first time in many years, an attendance officer was appointed at Grand Turk and at Cockburn Harbour.

There are 13 elementary schools which serve the six inhabited islands. Grand Turk School, consisting of a primary school and a secondary school, provides the only secondary education in the islands. The secondary school prepares pupils for the Cambridge

University Joint School Certificate and General Certificate of Education Examination, or the London University General Certificate of Education.

There was an improvement in the attendance figures owing to the enforcement of compulsory attendance, although only two prosecutions were brought. In 1962 the total number of names on the rolls was 1,396 and the average attendance was 1,182. Comparative figures for the past three years are:

	1960	1961	1962
Number on roll	1,285	1,329	1,396
Average attendance	946	1,049	1,182
Percentage attendance	74	79	85

Education is free and in addition nine scholarships worth £30 per annum are awarded to pupils from the out-islands attending the secondary school at Grand Turk. Most of the teachers in the Caicos schools are the products of the local schools and they are difficult to recruit. Over 90 per cent of the staff are women.

The period of this report saw the start of a campaign to raise the standard of education in the islands, and in particular that of Grand Turk School: this is reflected in the considerable rise in expenditure on education, a total of £20,905 in 1962 and £14,831 in 1961, compared with £13,406 in 1960, and £12,786 in 1959. In 1961 a headmaster, and in 1962 three assistant teachers were recruited from Barbados for service at Grand Turk School. Two student teachers also returned in 1962, having completed their three-year training courses in Jamaica, which had been financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds. One student left for teacher-training in Jamaica in 1962. By courtesy of the Government of the Bahamas, two teachers went to a summer school held at Nassau in the summer of 1962, while the headmaster of the Grand Turk School attended a course run by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in New York.

Mr. C. S. Jones, the Inspector of Schools, retired in 1962, and his post was absorbed into the Administrator's Office, the duties being undertaken by an Assistant Administrator.

A school feeding programme was run throughout the period at Bottle Creek School and some beans, flour and rice were provided free by the Church World Service to assist the project.

¶ There are no facilities for technical or adult education, but most of the population are literate and there is a Public Library and reading room at Grand Turk. Grand Turk School also possesses a children's library, and several of the other schools possess small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands is good. There were no outbreaks of cholera, amoebic dysentery, or other water-borne diseases in the period under review, but it was noted that an outbreak of infant diarrhoea and vomiting occurs mostly between the months of June and September, when the seasonal drought is at its height and water is in short supply. Apparatus to make regular bacteriological tests of the catchment water supply was purchased in 1962, but all tests so far have been negative. There was a significant change in the venereal disease treated: there were only 31 cases of gonorrhoea treated in 1961 and 36 in 1962, as compared to 60 in 1960. On the other hand there were two cases of syphilis, both of whom had recently been abroad.

Facilities for sanitation and disposal of garbage are lacking in most centres. In Grand Turk refuse disposal is by burning and covering on waste land well removed from the town. Bins are provided by the Government at strategic points throughout the town and are emptied twice a week. A small permanent labour force is employed on this work. Most houses in Grand Turk have latrines, but many are ramshackle structures which vigorously breed flies. The Government erected two model latrines to demonstrate proper construction, and to provide information on which to base a latrine-building programme, should this later prove possible.

There was an interesting experiment in 1962 when a team from the United States Department of Agriculture started a fly-eradication campaign, by inserting into all privies two ounces of an irradiated material emitting a gamma-ray to destroy the reproductive powers of house flies. It was difficult to assess the success of the programme by the end of the year.

The attendance at the ante-natal clinic held weekly at Grand Turk continues to be satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy is low. Attendances in 1962 totalled 469, with 109 deliveries of which 76 were carried out by the district midwife in the home. The district midwife also does the post-natal examination of babies and mothers.

An out-patient clinic is held five days a week at Grand Turk: 3,824 patients were seen in 1962.

There is a 20-bed hospital at Grand Turk and a clinic at Cockburn Harbour in South Caicos. Two medical officers on secondment from Jamaica were stationed at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour during 1961, but in January 1962 the Medical Officer, South Caicos, left at the end of a five-year tour of service. It proved impossible to replace him until December, and a nurse from the Grand Turk

hospital was stationed there during this period. The staff at the Grand Turk Hospital normally consists of a matron, four staff nurses, of whom usually two are seconded for six months at a time from Jamaica, three probationer nurses, and a trained nurse for the dispensary and midwifery work. There is a sanitary inspector at Grand Turk. The medical officer at South Caicos has the help of a dispensary assistant and a midwife. In view of her long experience and of her training, the district midwife at Bottle Creek in the Caicos Islands was appointed a staff nurse. There was also a district midwife at Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour, and Lorimers, and eight women who had received a simple training at the Grand Turk hospital were available in the other Caicos settlements. Some medical help could therefore be had everywhere—a great boon in such remote communities.

In 1962 a small addition was built to the clinic at Cockburn Harbour to provide four beds for persons arriving sick from the Caicos settlements. It sometimes happens that such persons are brought in by sailing boat from remote settlements late at night and can find no accommodation, for few will put up a sick person at short notice when no-one knows what is wrong with him. It is hoped the hostel will help remedy this.

As in previous years the Jamaica Government paid half the salaries of the staff of the hospital at Grand Turk, and they also contributed to the cost of drugs used in the islands up till the date of Jamaica's independence on 6th August 1962. Thereafter all costs fell to be borne by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During the period under review, regular visits were paid to Salt Cay by the medical officer stationed in Grand Turk, and the Caicos settlements were visited by the medical officer stationed at Cockburn Harbour as often as possible, until his departure at the beginning of 1962.

Government expenditure on medical services was £15,721 in 1961 and was estimated to be £20,727 in 1962.

SOCIAL WELFARE

At the beginning of 1961 the Government decided that, in view of the increase in juvenile delinquency especially at Grand Turk, it would be useful to have a social welfare officer. With the help of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant an officer of the Jamaica Social Welfare Department visited the islands in July 1961, and his report was discussed with the Jamaica branch of the Church World Service in order to obtain their help in recruiting a youth leader for a youth centre it was proposed to start. The Government promised

to provide free quarters for such a person and make available school premises after hours where youth activities could be held: it would also meet incidental expenditure such as fuel for a generator to provide electric light and a certain amount of equipment. The Church World Service for its part offered to recruit a suitable person and pay his salary. This all took time to arrange, and the youth leader did not arrive until April 1962. Although the youth centre was at first well attended and fulfilled an obvious social need, it appeared at the end of 1962 that the project might not be successful, primarily because of the difficulties of organisation that had been encountered and because of the failure to recruit responsible local persons to help lead the activities.

Apart from the assistance in providing a youth leader, the Church World Service provided valuable assistance in other ways. It brought in free food supplies valued at £800, chiefly flour, corn-meal, and vegetable oil for use in the school feeding programme at Bottle Creek and for free distribution to the poor. It also brought in medicine for free distribution valued at £5,500 and used clothing valued at £4,000. Another valuable contribution was the dried milk provided by UNICEF, 44,296 lb. in 1961 and 53,928 lb. in 1962. This was distributed free to pregnant women, nursing mothers and pre-school children in all the settlements.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress, and the Pauper Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases.

To supplement the work which was attempted at the youth centre, a cinema club was organised by the Assistant Administrator. Using a film projector owned by Government and charging a small fee for admission to cover the cost of hiring films, the club used premises which had originally been built for part-time use as a cinema. This proved a welcome diversion in the community. The Assistant Administrator also organised a duplicated broadsheet of weekly news, named the "Pelican," whose first publication was on 6th January 1962. A tennis court was built at the Victoria Public Library for which the cost of materials was met from a Colonial Development and Welfare minor amenities scheme, and the cost of labour by local voluntary contribution.

But the most substantial achievement by a voluntary organisation was that of the Child Welfare Association who built a new clinic in Grand Turk in 1961. The frame and roofing of a quonset hut had been donated for this purpose by the United States Mobile Construction Battalion when building the Naval Base some time pre-

viously. To erect this building on a site which the Government provided cost £700, all of which was raised by the Child Welfare Association from local subscription; much of the labour for this building was given free. It was opened by the Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, in October 1961; since then all child welfare clinics have been held there and milk under the Government milk scheme has been distributed from there. Three public clinics have been held each month, supervised by the medical officer and the district mid-wife and attended by voluntary workers to weigh babies and keep records: these voluntary workers also run one clinic a month on their own. When necessary on medical grounds, free full-cream dried milk was provided for babies whose mothers could not afford to pay for it and free cod liver oil, malt and vitamins were also provided for those who needed them. The funds to make these free foods available were again raised locally by the Child Welfare Association, which, as in previous years, gave a Christmas party in Grand Turk for all children under the age of six.

A regular clinic was held in Cockburn Harbour, supervised by the medical officer there, or by the nurse in his absence, and in Salt Cay, supervised by the resident nurse, assisted by the local president of the Women's Federation.

A generous grant from the Jamaica Government subsidised the milk scheme until Jamaican independence on 6th August 1962. This scheme operated in all the settlements of the Caicos Islands as well as in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Powdered milk was sold at a quarter of its market value by members of the Women's Federation, who gave their services free.

The branches of the Jamaican Federation of Women continued to thrive, their number increasing from 12 in 1960 to 13 in 1962. In 1961 the branches of the Federation were adopted by the Women's Institute of British Columbia, Canada, and all the local branches now have contacts there. The effect of the work of the Federation was most marked in the more isolated settlements of the Caicos Islands where members play a leading part in all phases of the life of the community, and in fact provide the necessary organisation and leadership for many of the social activities so much needed in the islands. A public sale of handwork was held weekly in Grand Turk and did much to stimulate the Caicos branches to make straw and sisal handwork. During the period under review, these sales have realised more than £900, ready customers being found among the personnel of the American Bases as well as among the permanent inhabitants of Grand Turk themselves. In 1962 five sewing machines were given to the branches of the Federation under a

Colonial Development and Welfare scheme which puts up one half the price of the machines if the Federation puts up the other half: three had been provided in 1960.

The Boy Scout movement which was first started in the islands in 1952 now has two troops at Grand Turk, one at Salt Cay and one at Cockburn Harbour, and there is a Cub Pack at Grand Turk. Total membership is 200. Activities are organised by the District Commissioner and four Scout Masters, two of whom hold warrants. There are Girl Guide Companies at Grand Turk and Salt Cay with a total membership of 90.

A highlight of scout activities was the sending of six scouts and three scouters to the Jamboree held in Trinidad from March to April 1961. This visit was largely financed by proceeds of choir concerts organised by the Assistant Administrator in December 1960. The scouts also held a camp for which new tents and equipment were purchased in 1962, and much stimulus and help was given to the movement by the visits of the Federal Guide Field Commissioner in 1961 and the Federal Scout Field Commissioner in 1962, the latter attending the scout camp which was held at that time. In August 1962 two scouts represented the movement in the islands at the Jamaican independence celebrations, and remained to assist at the Central American and Caribbean games which were held in Jamaica immediately afterwards.

HOUSING

There was a marked improvement in the standard of housing everywhere during the period, due both to the reconstruction work carried out after the disastrous hurricane of 1960 and to the persistent efforts which had been made to lift up the economy.

Apart from Salt Cay, where many houses are of stone with corrugated iron roofs, the general standard of housing had been poor, small wooden houses predominating at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, stone houses with thatched roofs in the Caicos settlements. Following the hurricane, a ship was chartered and much materials, cement, aluminium roofing and lumber, were landed in the Caicos settlements where almost half the population had been made homeless. This was sufficient to rebuild three hundred stone houses and funds were provided to repair many others. Substantial sums were also spent in Grand Turk and lesser amounts in Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay: the total expenditure on private relief spent largely in this way was £54,000, and, of course many house owners contributed from their own resources to rebuild, repair or re-decorate their houses and in doing so helped to improve the appearance of

their communities. It is pleasing to record the enthusiasm most people devoted to the task of reconstruction, and the evidence of it was plain for all to see in the appearance of houses in each settlement at the end of the period. New construction was of better quality than the old, and greater attention was paid to decoration.

Chapter 8: Legislation

NINE laws were passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1961 and 15 in 1962. The more important were as follows:

1961

1. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Law, 1961
2. The Special Tax (Amendment) Law, 1961
3. The Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Amendment) Law, 1961
5. The Oaths Law, 1961
6. The Registration (Births, Deaths and Marriages) Amendment) Law, 1960
7. The Firearms Law, 1960
8. The Salt Industry (Redemption of Preference Shares) Law, 1961
9. The Towns and Public Health (Amendment) Law, 1961.

1962

2. The Emergency Powers Law, 1962
3. The Voters Registration and Election Regulations (Amendment) Law, 1962
4. The Oaths (Amendment) Law, 1962
5. The Witness Expenses (Amendment) Law, 1962
6. The Aliens Deportation Law, 1962
7. The Stamp Issues (Cancellation) Law
8. The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Law, 1962
11. The Hotels Aid Law, 1962
12. The Electricity Law, 1962
13. The Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Transfer (Amendment) Law, 1962.
14. The Recording of Deeds (Amendment) Law, 1962
15. The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) (Amendment) Law, 1962.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Law extends the list of exemptions from duty and the Special Tax (Amendment) Law removes the special tax of 4 per cent which had been levied on flour in 1957, in fulfilment of the promise made to the Legislative Assembly when the law was introduced. The law to amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance empowered a prosecuting officer to enter a *nolle prosequi*, it having been found that this power had inadvertently disappeared when the 1959 constitution came into force. The Firearms Law, No. 7 of 1961, introduced for the first time means to control the possession of firearms, many having been brought back into the islands by men who served abroad as seamen. Law No. 8 of 1961 provided for the redemption of the preference shares of the Salt Company and set up the legal framework necessary to complete the negotiations with the former salt proprietors (see page 23).

The Emergency Powers Law of 1962 entrusted the Administrator with power to take immediate action for the public good in any emergency. The law amending the Voters Registration and Election Regulations was introduced to take account of the change in population which was revealed by the 1960 census: under this law, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly for Bottle Creek were reduced from two to one and those at Grand Turk increased from two to three, the total number of elected members in the Legislative Assembly remaining the same. The Aliens Deportation Law was brought up to date in accordance with modern practice. The law to amend the Recording of Deeds Ordinance was designed to ensure that all conveyances or other documents which gave title to land were recorded in the office of the Registrar of Deeds: this provision had been made necessary by the many transactions with the alien and transient population of the United States Bases, for it was feared that unless properly recorded, titles would become obscure within a few years and seriously impede development of the islands. The law to amend the Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Transfer Law extended for a further period of twenty years the privileges accorded to the company in connection with their laying and operation of cables which were due to expire on 31st December 1962.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the islands consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and the Bahamas Legislature, and

the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica was empowered to extend its legislation to the islands, and this power remained under the Order in Council of 1959 until 6th August 1962 when Jamaica became independent. Certain Federal Laws were applied to the islands during the short legislative life of the Federation of The West Indies. The new constitution of 1962 enables the islands to retain such applied laws pending re-enactment.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate who during the period under review was an officer recruited from the United Kingdom on a three-year contract. In the past, the post has often been filled by an officer on a short-term secondment from the Jamaican legal service. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary inquiry is either taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 30 in the islands, or a Judge is sent from Jamaica or the Bahamas to hold the Supreme Court hearing. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court still lie to the Court of Appeal in Jamaica. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

POLICE

The force is commanded by an Inspector under the administrative supervision of an Assistant Administrator. Six members of the force are normally stationed at Grand Turk and four at Cockburn Harbour. At Salt Cay there is one special constable and in the Caicos Islands there is a part-time district constable in each of the principal settlements.

The establishment of two American bases on Grand Turk made it necessary to strengthen the force and, with the assistance of the Jamaica Government, an Inspector and two constables have been seconded from Jamaica since October 1955, each officer normally serving a period of one year. The force has been able to deal with any incident involving personnel of the American bases with firmness, fairness and despatch, and has thus been an important factor in preserving the excellent relations between the bases and the local population.

Crime statistics for 1961 and 1962 are shown in Appendices II and III.

THE PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population averages about four.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

No public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from diesel-operated generators, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain-water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per gallon. There are 21 of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,122,000 gallons as follows:

	<i>Number of tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	11	737,000
Salt Cay	3	60,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	5	265,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	20,000
TOTAL	21	1,122,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation or for human consumption.

The serious drought, which started in 1956, went on with little alleviation till 1959. In 1960 came hurricane Donna and the rainfall in 1961 at over 46 inches was exceptionally high. But drought returned in 1962 when there was less than 1 inch of rain until July and only 12 inches during the year. For four months, the Guided Missile Base supplied an average of 20,000 gallons a week. Although a water carrier was purchased in 1961, distributing water in Grand Turk and supplying Salt Cay across seven miles of sea were major preoccupations of the Public Works Department. It was fortunate that a new catchment area and water tank to hold 260,000 gallons had been constructed in 1958 under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme.

The major public work undertaken during 1961 was the construction of a wharf at Cockburn Harbour, where all former wharves had been destroyed by hurricane Donna. Other construction work, notably on sea walls, was undertaken: two rest houses, a water tank, a school, and a jetty were built in the Caicos Islands, in addition to the normal maintenance work of the department.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a Superintendent with a regular staff of three persons, others being employed when required.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

THE m.v. *Carib Queen*, a vessel of some 300 tons capacity, plied regularly between Kingston and Grand Turk at approximately three-weekly intervals, bringing mail and many of the essential supplies, and taking out salt. The m.v. *Miss Shell Factory*, a locally registered vessel of 140 tons gross, exported conch shells to Miami and brought supplies from there at irregular but approximately six-weekly intervals. Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company call at Grand Turk from Amsterdam every three months and also bring much cargo.

Elders and Fyffes steamers, out of Avonmouth, pass regularly through the Turks Islands Passage but do not call, as freight rates for direct delivery to Grand Turk are higher than the rates to Jamaica.

There are three ports of entry: Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Each has an open roadstead where vessels drawing more than 15 feet must anchor at some distance from the shore.

A lighthouse is maintained at the northern point off Grand Turk, and there are beacons at Sand Cay, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay.

Three new vessels were registered in the islands in 1961 and six in 1962 with gross tonnage of 27 and 198 respectively, making the total register 131 vessels of 2,281 tons gross. These are mostly sloops built in the Caicos Islands, which range from five to 25 tons and which carry on regular trade with the north coast of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, taking dried conchs and bringing back fresh supplies.

AIR SERVICES

The weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk, which was begun by Bahamas Airways Ltd. in March 1956, continued throughout the period under review, and developed into a twice-a-week service, operating on Mondays and Fridays, with effect from 1st October 1962.

POSTAL SERVICES

All air mail is routed through Nassau on Mondays and Fridays, and surface mail is carried by sea to Kingston, Jamaica, at approximately three-weekly intervals. The Post Office dealt with approximately 2,900 parcels and 149,300 letters and small packets in 1961.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. also operate a radio-telephone service to Kingston, with connections to the North American mainland. A law to renew its cable privileges for a further twenty years was enacted in December 1962, and its wireless licence was also renewed at the same time.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless, provides a twice daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has 52 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

There is a tar macadam road from the Naval Facility at the north end of Grand Turk to the Air Force base at the south end, which was built by the United States authorities in 1955.

Local roads in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour are surfaced with scale from the salt ponds. This provides a hard and durable surface, although it hastens the deterioration of motor vehicles. There are no motor roads or motor vehicles in the lower Caicos Islands, where most travelling is done by sailing boat, but they have a number of tracks suitable for donkey carts. Several motor cars were imported by private persons into Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour from Miami during the period.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals in the islands. The Government Printing Office prints the official *Gazette* every week. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited distribute a limited number of copies of the daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy. A duplicated broadsheet "The Pelican" was produced voluntarily by Government staff each week from January 1962, containing news of local interest and was well received both at home and abroad.

There are no Government information services, but by courtesy of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited a Government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 1.30 p.m. This consists of a five-minute review of local news and Government announcements, and is eagerly awaited each day in the Caicos settlement who regard it as their principal contact with the outside world.

Using a cinema projector owned by the Government, and a room at the Grand Turk School, which had originally been built partly for this purpose, a voluntary Cinema Club organised a twice-weekly cinema show throughout the period. A small charge for admission was made to cover the cost of hiring films. This provided a service much needed by the public.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between latitude 21° and 22° North and longitude 71° and 72° 30' West, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been made until recently. Gradual filling of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank as described by Dr. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938) is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called locally Blue Hills) and West Caicos.

At varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush." The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and seawater swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank." This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (annelida Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. In recent years the annual rainfall, which formerly averaged around 29 inches in Grand Turk, has declined and during the period the drought, which had been the pattern of recent years, continued. Exceptionally 46 inches fell in 1961, but only 12 in 1962. In that year from January until the end of July there was less than 1½ inches of rain. Had it not been for the generosity of the Guided Missile Base, who from April onwards provided 20,000 gallons of water a week until the end of July, some of which was sent to Salt Cay, there would have been severe suffering.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour. In September 1960 hurricane Donna did some harm to Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn

Harbour, but its full force struck the Caicos Islands where it did great damage. Its accompanying tidal wave carved out a new mouth to Bottle Creek and isolated the settlement of Whitby by a lake of sea water.

Chapter 2: History

THE Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, and this theory which was once discredited has recently been put forward again. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in several of the Caicos Islands and in particular in a cave in Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while en route for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island," possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at "the island of Caycos." Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt "at the Island Caycos."

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November when the salt-raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, one Andrew Symmers, was appointed in 1766 "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty." This was the first regularly established government.

By an Order in Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of southern United States

origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remains.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. In July 1959 a new constitution was introduced, providing for an unofficial majority in an elected Legislative Assembly, and for an Executive Council to advise the Administrator, who administered the islands under the Governor of Jamaica, who, by virtue of his office, was also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During 1961 the islands negotiated to become an associated territory of the Federation of The West Indies, but all hopes of this were lost when Jamaica decided to withdraw from it. Negotiations then followed to become an associated territory of Jamaica on its independence, but the clear wish of the people was to remain a British colony. So on 6th August 1962 another new constitution was introduced, similar to that of 1959, but transferring the powers held by the Governor to the Administrator. In fact this was a return to the system of government introduced in 1848 and abandoned in 1873.

New elections were held in September 1962, following which, for the first time, the "membership" system was introduced, whereby the two unofficial members of the Executive Council share more directly in the responsibilities of government.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track." During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928, 1945, and 1960, the most severe being those of 1866, 1945, and 1960. Over £40,000 was spent in repairing damage inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation. From September to December 1960 over £30,000 was spent in emergency relief, mostly in Caicos, and a further £56,000, out of a total approved grant of £94,000, was spent in 1961 and 1962. Reconstruction was practically complete by the end of the period.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but usually with only short-lived success. In 1943 arrangements were made for the m.v. *Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the m.v. *Kirkland* of Honduran registry, in 1957 by the m.v. *Kirksons* and in 1960 by the m.v. *Carib Queen*. In 1960 the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory* started carrying conch shells to Miami about every six weeks, and this continued during the period.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company Limited) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Limited who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Limited are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Limited established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service from Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Late in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the islands, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive. In March 1956 a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Limited: during the latter half of 1962, at the beginning of the winter tourist season in the Bahamas, this service became twice weekly.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Limited to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the Guided Missile Base.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head-right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. In 1951 under the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received exclusive right to export salt from the islands, the freeholders then receiving one-third of the assessed value of their property in cash and two-thirds in preference shares. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry. In 1961, with funds generously made available by the Federal Government of the West Indies, these preference shares were redeemed by the Turks Islands Government. In September 1962, the Salt Industry Board was wound up and its assets distributed. Thus there is again full Government ownership of the industry, as there was before 1845.

*Chapter 3: Administration**

THE islands are administered by an Administrator who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. During the period under review the post has been held by Mr. G. C. Guy, O.B.E. The seat of Government is at Grand Turk.

The laws of the islands are passed by the Legislative Assembly over which the Administrator presides, or in his absence, a Deputy President elected by the members of the Assembly. The Assembly consists of the Administrator, not less than two nor more than three official members, not less than two nor more than three nominated members, and nine elected members, representing nine constituencies and chosen by secret ballot and by universal adult suffrage. Before 6th August 1962 the Assembly exercised full legislative and

* Details of the new constitution introduced in August 1962 are published in Statutory Instrument No. 1649, The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council, 1962.

budgetary powers, subject to the assent of the Governor, and it was the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before being introduced. After the 6th August, the Governor's powers passed to the Administrator.

There is also an Executive Council, which the Administrator is obliged to consult on all important matters. It consists of two official and one nominated member appointed by the Administrator with the approval of the Secretary of State, and two elected members elected by the nominated and elected members of the Assembly from among the elected members. The Administrator presides.

A Government officer is stationed at Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, which are ports of entry, who maintains customs, postal and other services. The Caicos Islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales). These areas also form the constituencies for the Legislative Assembly. The District Boards normally consist of eight persons who include the District Constable, the elected member of the Legislative Assembly and usually the school teacher who acts as secretary. Appointments are made by the Administrator after holding unofficial elections.

The Administrator regularly toured the Caicos settlements, some of which the Governor also visited in 1961.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Administrator for approval.

Resulting from the introduction of the new constitution in August 1962, elections for the Legislative Assembly were held throughout the islands on 12th September 1962. Membership of the Legislative Assembly at the end of 1962 was as follows:

Official

G. C. Guy, O.B.E.	(Administrator) President
A. A. M. Tatem	Treasurer
G. P. Cammiade	Magistrate

Nominated

G. E. M. Ewing	(Cockburn Harbour)
J. N. Morgan	(Salt Cay)

Elected

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
L. H. Francis	(Grand Turk)
A. A. Simons	(Grand Turk)
J. A. Bassett	(Salt Cay)
L. C. Stubbs	(Cockburn Harbour)
T. E. Higgs	(Middle Caicos)
O. J. Gardiner	(Bottle Creek)
H. St. G. Robinson	(Kew)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Providenciales)

To reflect the shift of population confirmed by the census of 1960, legislation was introduced in April 1961 to increase the number of seats at Grand Turk from two to three, and to reduce the number at Bottle Creek from two to one, the number of elected members in the Assembly thus remaining the same.

At its first meeting on 3rd October 1962 the Assembly re-elected Mr. R. E. Basden and Mr. L. H. Francis as the unofficial members of the Executive Council, which they had been in the previous Assembly. They thus became the first unofficial members to take part in the "membership" system.

The Governor of Jamaica, who was also the Governor of the islands, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., toured the Caicos Islands, visiting most of the major settlements to see hurricane damage and the reconstruction during January 1961 and in October visited Grand Turk, to discuss the results of the Jamaican referendum with the Legislative Assembly. His last visit to say farewell to the islands was to Grand Turk in May 1962.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force Base, the United States Naval Facility, on Grand Turk, and with the United States Coastguard Station on South Caicos.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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APPENDIX I

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1961 and 1962

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/62	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
<i>Minor Amenities</i>		£	£	£
D3840(14)	Purchase of projector and screen	475	475	16
D3840(16)	Provision of sports equipment .	150	141	141
D3840(17)	Provision of sewing machines for welfare work	150	56	18
D4093(1)	Re-making tennis court at Vic- toria Public Library	350	350	111
D4093(17)	Providing storage for dried milk	100	—	—
<i>Training (West Indies)</i>				
D2658(206)	Training of Oswald Smith at Mico Training College	380	348	—
D3446(74)	Training of an officer in sanita- tion	522	502	—
D3735(46)	Training of midwives at Grand Turk Hospital	320	241	—
D4071(66)	Training of E. A. Brooks, Treasury Officer	250	250	13
D4071(67)	Training of W. B. Jennings, Treasury Officer	250	250	26
D4071(115)	Training of R. N. Robinson in office administration	180	180	10
<i>Scholarships</i>				
D3741(14)	Training of two teachers at Shortwood College	1,795	1,355	—
D4092(36)	Training of two teachers at Shortwood College	1,840	969	—
D4092(47)	Training of Gloria Lightbourne at Shortwood College	790	331	—
<i>Technical Assistance</i>				
D4070(11)	Visit of expert from Jamaica Social Welfare Commission	212	129	—
<i>Carried forward .</i>		7,764	5,577	335

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/62	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
	<i>Brought forward</i>	£ 7,764	£ 5,577	£ 335
<i>Grants</i>				
D3765	New hospital lighting system .	1,700	1,548	—
D3834A	Agricultural Development, Caicos Islands: Grant .	15,448	11,465	—
	Loan £4,500			
D3843	Improvement of minor amenities (Caicos Islands) .	2,000	1,770	—
D3991	X-ray unit, Grand Turk Hospital	4,800	3,529	—
D4105	Manager for Turks Islands Salt Company .	8,040	3,178	—
D4498	To train a doctor for service in the Turks and Caicos Islands	1,513	1,264	—
D4502	Employment of expatriate head- master	4,450	1,307	1,216
D4549	Provision of wireless transmit- ting and receiving sets in the Caicos Settlements .	3,900	3,763	—
D4562*	Air photography of Turks and Caicos Islands .	7,000	6,956	—
D4693	Water storage tank, Salt Cay .	2,500	969	—
D4713	Fine salt plant, Salt Cay .	31,000	5,747	—
D4844	Provision of launch to establish mail and passenger service .	5,000	4,444	12,955
D5078	Employment of manager for Turks Islands Salt Company .	4,800	2,496	—
		£99,915	£54,013	£14,506
<i>Approved Loans</i>				
		£	£	£
D3428	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Company, Loan issued 16th July 1958 .	5,000	5,000	—
D3690	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Company, Loan issued 5th March 1959 .	5,000	5,000	—
D3834	Agricultural development .	4,500	296	—
D4986	Establishment of poultry farm, Loan issued December 1961 .	500	500	—
D5197	Electricity supply .	14,905	193	—
		£29,905	£10,989	—

* Central Geodetic and Topographical Surveys' allocation.

APPENDIX II

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1961 and 1962

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police		Total death dealt with	Disposal of Accepted Cases						Closed undetected	Pending investigation or trial
	1961 1962			Acquitted or Discharged	Nolle Prosequi	Convicted	Proven/bound over or Admon./ Dis.	1961 1962			
	1961	1962						1961	1962		
<i>Against lawful authority</i>											
Against public order	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Escape and rescue	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>											
Rape and indecent assault	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>											
Attempted murder and suicide	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	26	26	26	2	4	17	2	—	—	—	—
Assault	2	8	2	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	2
Other	2	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>											
Thefts and other stealings	15	18	15	4	3	10	1	—	2	2	2
Burglary, house and store breaking	6	6	6	1	—	5	—	—	1	4	1
Arson	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prædial Larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5	2	5	1	—	3	2	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	62	68	62	8	11	38	40	3	2	6	6

B: Number of Persons in 1961

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted											
				Total		Imprisonment				Corporal punishment				Fined	
				M	F	M	F	Juv	M	F	M	F	Juv	M	F
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Against public order	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>															
Rape and indecent assault	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>															
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	28	4	4	17	3	8	1	—	—	—	8	1	—	1	—
Assaults	4	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Others	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>															
Thefts and other stealings	12	2	1	6	3	3	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	5	—	—	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Fraudulent larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	7	1	2	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	65	11	11	33	8	2	19	4	—	—	2	13	3	1	1

C: Number of Persons in 1962

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted											
				Total			Imprison- ment			Corporal punishment			Fined		
				M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Against public order	3		1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Escape and rescue	2			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against public morality</i>															
Rape and indecent assault	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against the person</i>															
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	24	2		17	5	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	8	3	-
Assaults	10	4	2	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Others	2	1		1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Against property</i>															
Thefts, and other stealings	17	6		10	-	1	8	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Burglary, house and store breaking	2	1		1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prædial larceny	-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2			2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	62	15	3	38	5	1	18	2	-	-	1	14	3	6	-

APPENDIX III

Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1961 and 1962

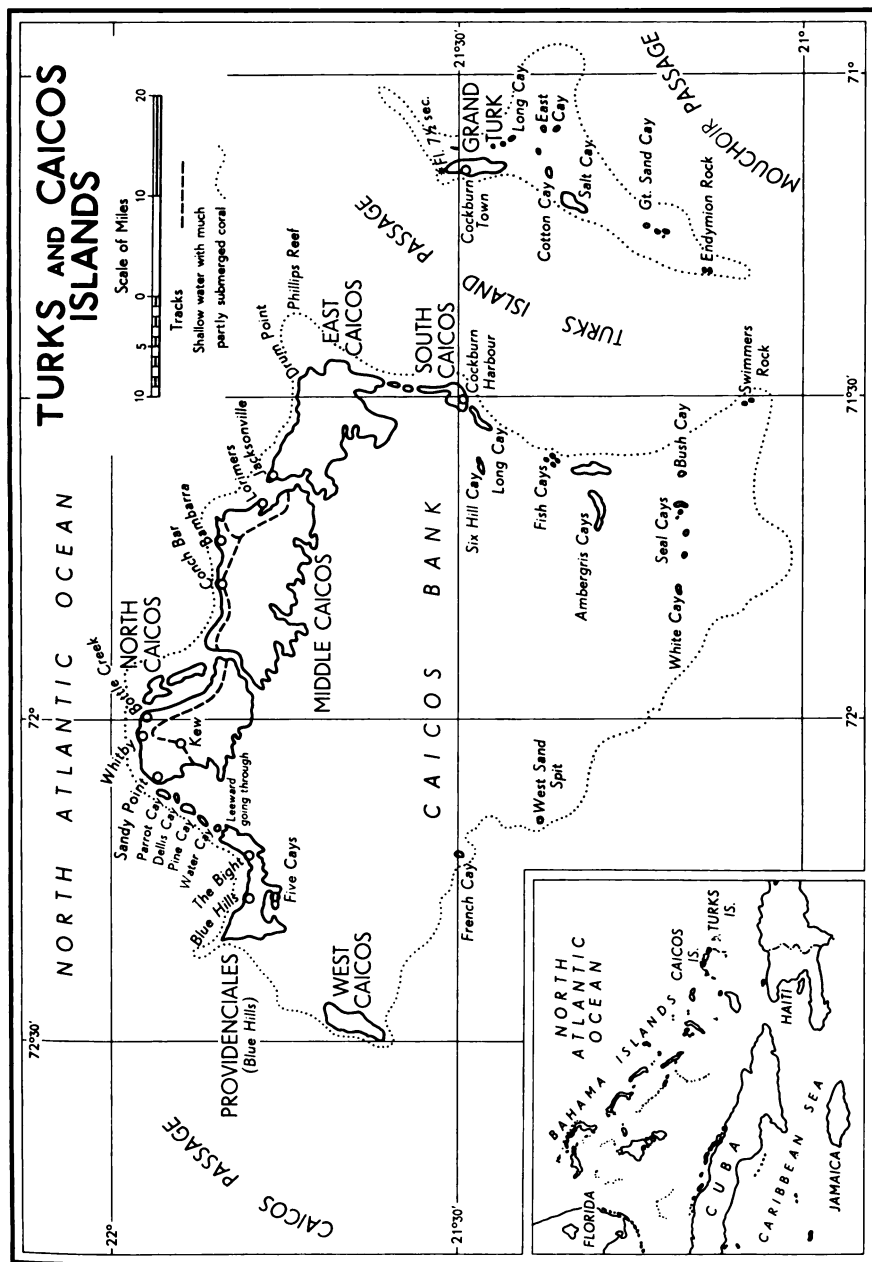
A: Cases dealt with

Offences	Total		Convicted		Discharged		Pending investigation or awaiting trial	
	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962
Against Traffic Ordinance	6	5	5	4	1	—	—	1
Against Township Ordinance	36	28	29	23	7	5	—	—
Against Liquor Ordinance	8	5	6	4	2	1	—	—
Against Gambling	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences	124	157	104	134	20	18	—	5
TOTAL	174	196	144	166	30	24	—	6

Turks and Caicos Islands

B: Persons Convicted

Offences	Total		Imprisonment		Fined		Corporal Punishment		Order made	
	M '61 '62	F '61 '62	M '61 '62	F '61 '62	M '61 '62	F '61 '62	M '61 '62	F '61 '62	M '61 '62	F '61 '62
Against Traffic Ordinance .	5 4	— —	2 —	— —	3 3	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— —
Against Township Ordinance .	19 17	11 14	1 2	— —	16 9	6 13	1 2	— —	1 4	5 1
Against Liquor Ordinance .	9 3	— 2	— 1	— —	7 2	— 1	— —	— —	2 —	— 1
Against Gambling . . .	— 2	— —	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Other offences . . .	61 93	22 53	12 8	2 4	35 76	13 46	— —	— —	14 9	7 3
TOTAL . . .	94 119	33 69	15 13	2 4	61 90	19 60	1 2	— —	17 14	12 5



F
1659
T9
G7
1963/64



Turks & Caicos Islands 1963 and 1964

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
SIX SHILLINGS NET

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Report for the years
1963 and 1964

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1966

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PART I

Review of 1963 and 1964

As in 1961 and 1962, the major feature of political life has been the search for a close association with a larger neighbour. Since Jamaica became independent in July 1962, the islands have been administered directly under the Colonial Office: this was unsuccessfully tried in 1848 after the islands had broken away from the Bahamas and lasted until 1872. Even then, which was the time of the greatest prosperity of the islands, there was an obvious need for a link with a larger unit with greater resources of staff and able to provide the technical help and assistance which could not be found within such a small colony from its own resources. Since 1962 the need for such a link has again been acutely felt and although the Jamaica Government had generously entered into a trade and technical assistance agreement, it was still felt necessary to replace the ties which had existed with Jamaica when the Governor of Jamaica was by virtue of his office also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For this reason an approach was made to the Bahamas Government in an effort to develop some form of association with them. In June 1964 a Working Party was set up to consider the practical implications of a merger of the Administrations of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahama Islands. The Turks and Caicos Islands' delegation consisted of the Administrator, the Honourable Treasurer Mr. A. A. M. Tatem, the retired Treasurer and nominated member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. E. T. Wood, I.S.O., Mr. Lloyd Stubbs, elected member from Cockburn Harbour, the Honourable L. H. Francis, member of the Executive Council and elected member for Grand Turk, and Mr. G. O. Lightbourne, elected member for Providenciales. It had been the wish of many in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and particularly of the inhabitants of the Caicos Islands, that there should be a complete merger of the territories and that the Turks and Caicos Islands should be absorbed as part of the Bahamas, with the islands providing one or two elected representatives to the Bahamas Legislature: members however were anxious that the existing level of services including the maintenance of the secondary school and hospital should be maintained.

The discussions in Nassau under the Chairmanship of the newly arrived Governor Sir Ralph Grey, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., were friendly and detailed: the Bahamas delegation was led by the Premier, Sir Roland Symonette. It soon became apparent that a merger could not be expected to take place in the near future, but a Working Party Report was produced which gave its blessing to the proposal for an association on the same lines as had previously existed with Jamaica, with the Turks and Caicos Islands sharing the Governor of the Bahamas and the Bahamas kindly offering to supply, on repayment, such help with staff, technical services and advice as it could. This Working Party Report was debated in the Legislative Assembly during December 1964 and a resolution was passed *nem. con.* welcoming the proposals and asking for their early implementation.

There can be no doubt but that the geographical proximity of areas of high employment and high wages in Nassau and Freeport, and elsewhere in the Bahamas, constitutes a magnet to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and a principal feature of the period under review was the continued migration from the islands to the Bahamas in search of employment. At a time, when, after the severance of the link with Jamaica, there was great need for trained staff and for willing and responsible hands at home to fill the gap and to provide economic prosperity on our own shores, few able and willing workers were available. Increasingly, the islands became a dormitory for the Bahamas—but a dormitory separated by the artificial barrier of customs and immigration officials—and a home for the elderly, the less readily employable and the very young. To provide an acceptable level of Government services in such a community became increasingly difficult and the supply of staff from Jamaica on which the islands had so greatly relied in the past, all but dried up. More and more the Government had to look towards the United Kingdom for the recruitment of the staff it required and whom it could not find from its own resources: at the close of the period under review no less than fourteen posts were being advertised in the United Kingdom: nurses, teachers, doctors were all in short supply and for the first time for many years the services of only one medical officer were available for the islands during part of the period.

And yet with all the difficulties caused by the shortage of staff and by the immigration of the strongest and ablest element of the population, prosperity continued at a reasonable level. Throughout much of the period between sixty and seventy seamen were employed abroad principally by the National Bulk Carriers, and their remittances home made an appreciable difference to the economy. Certain

sections of Grand Turk developed concrete built houses, some of imposing dimensions, and it would be fair to say that there has probably been more building activity on Grand Turk than at any time for one hundred years when the islands were at the peak of their prosperity from the salt trade. For this, the remittances from seamen and from those employed in Freeport and in Nassau were largely responsible.

Another event of historic importance in the history of the islands was the closing of the Salt Company's operations at Cockburn Harbour and at Grand Turk on 31st December 1964. A decision was also taken in principle to close down the salt company operation at Salt Cay and thus end the three hundred years of salt making on the Turks and Caicos Islands, as soon as other employment could be made available for the work force. The manufacture of salt by evaporating sea water in salina areas by using the heat of the sun and the steady force of the trade winds had been the original reason for the settlement of the islands. Throughout all their history, it had been the only industry of any importance. During the first two hundred and fifty years of the occupation of the American seaboard, the Turks and Caicos Islands had been of considerable importance, for the early settlers needed salt to cure their fish, to salt their hides and their beef for the winter: these islands were a principal source of supply. The schooners from Bermuda were the carriers in this trade and the Bermudan sailing rig is supposed to have been developed for the long beat to windward to the Turks Islands for salt. The passing of the years has found this old industry increasingly uneconomic. The total capacity for salt production in Cockburn Harbour, Grand Turk and Salt Cay combined was believed to have been about seventy thousand tons per year, although this amount has not been produced in living memory. Salt operations on neighbouring islands base their production in terms of five hundred thousand tons per year. Deep mines in the United States and elsewhere produce salt at a rate measured in thousands of tons per hour. There could be little chance for survival of the industry where the principal production centres were separated from the Headquarters at Grand Turk by respectively twenty two miles and seven miles of often turbulent sea, whose overheads were correspondingly high, and where the total available land area was insufficient at any of the centres of production to expand output to the minimum economic level. So the decision was taken that the days of the industry should be ended and that the funds available for development should be spent on the starting of a fishing industry and on the creation of capital assets, such as roads and airstrips, as might enable the islands eventually to take their

place as a haven for tourists, for tourism may remain the leading industry for this part of the world for many years to come.

A most significant event in 1964 was the opening of the electricity supply in Grand Turk on the Queen's Birthday. It is expected that this supply, which was financed partly by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development and partly from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, will play an important part in the future development of Grand Turk. It is hoped also that one by-product of its establishment may possibly be the setting up of some form of light industry: it is also hoped that available electricity will encourage traders to install refrigeration units for the keeping of perishable foods and thus improve the food supply, which has always been a source of difficulty. In order to ensure sufficient fuel was available to keep the electricity station constantly running, the Government invited tenders for the erection of bulk fuel tanks and these were erected by the successful tenderer, the Shell Oil Company, in April 1964, the electricity department itself becoming the wholesaler and distributor of fuel. These fuel tanks have resulted in a very considerable lowering of the cost of fuel, both to the electricity supply and to the consuming public.

In South Caicos some encouraging development took place with the introduction of refuelling facilities for light aircraft by Caicos Holdings Ltd. Caicos Holdings Ltd. also began to operate a guest lodge at South Caicos which was opened by the Administrator in 1964. The lodge, named "The Admirals Arms" has catered for an increasing number of pilots and other visitors to the islands. The number of light aircraft calling at South Caicos averages one hundred per month.*

Important progress was made at the Grand Turk School where there were 25 candidates for G.C.E. examinations in 1963 and 1964. In 1964 an attempt was made to run a sixth form with successful G.C.E. candidates in the hope that they could be groomed for university entrance, preferably at the University College of the West Indies. This again is an historic achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands and at the close of the year plans were afoot to expand the educational system by building a classroom for vocational training in carpentry and woodwork, engine maintenance and other similar skills and to recruit a technical instructor. Since also the school at Grand Turk is to serve all the needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the number of scholarships was increased for pupils from Caicos to come to the school at Grand Turk, and the amount of money available to each scholar was also increased. A further

* A new guest house "The Turks Head Inn" opened in Grand Turk in 1965

innovation was the bringing in to the school at Grand Turk of some of the senior pupils from Caicos Schools for a short intensive period of study, so that they might take a G.C.E. examination and be sent for teacher training and then return to staff the schools in their own settlements.

The most important legislation of social implication passed by the Legislative Assembly during the period under review were undoubtedly a new Liquor Lisencing Law, a law to license dance halls and places of public entertainment, and an amendment to the Summary Conviction Ordinance to prevent drinking in the streets and other public places. This rectified a situation which had long given Grand Turk a bad name, and obviously action had to be taken if people were to be encouraged to settle in or to develop the islands. As a result the streets of Grand Turk were quieter and more orderly during Christmas 1964 than they had been during a holiday period for many years.

Mention should also be made of the continued support and assistance in so many ways given by the two American Bases on Grand Turk, the United States Naval Facility at the northern end of the island and the United States Auxiliary Air Force Tracking Station at the southern end. Although no more astronauts landed on the islands as had Colonel John Glenn and Commander Scott Carpenter during 1962, it was still exciting to be associated with the great events of the United States Missile and Space exploration programmes, even though in a remote and humble capacity.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A CENSUS was held on 7th April 1960. The total population (*de jure*) was 5,668, of whom 3,468 lived in the salt producing centres of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and 2,200 in the Caicos settlements; 2,557 of the total population were children below the age of 15.

The population at the previous census in 1943 was 6,138. Since then the live birth rate has continued high, but there has been a steady and continuous emigration from the islands, principally to the Bahamas. Many of the young men go away; women and children more frequently stay behind, so that the ratio of females to males is 122:100. The effect of the emigration of the male population can be seen from the fact that there are approximately 1,600 females to 1,000 males at ages over twenty. This is particularly noticeable at public meetings in the Caicos Islands where women usually outnumber men by two to one. This emigration has continued throughout 1963 and 1964. Since the establishment of the United States military bases, there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen and civilians stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements on census day was:

Grand Turk	2,180
Salt Cay	448
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	840
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	700
Kew (North Caicos) (including Sandy Point and Whitby)	450
Blue Hills (Providenciales) (including Five Cays and the Bight)	518
Middle Caicos (including Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar)	532

The population is made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	5,315
Persons of mixed descent	216
Persons of European descent	77
Others not classified	60

The birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, and births and deaths registered during 1963 and 1964 were as follows:

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths	Natural increase
1963	238	74	164
1964	217	61	156

Migration figures were:

		1963	1964
Entered	.	No accurate figure	126
Departed	.	available	170

Twenty-one marriages were registered in 1963, 17 in 1964.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

THE Turks Island Salt Company, which continued to be the main source of employment in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, was again partly supported by Government funds and continued during 1963 to maintain the same level of activity as in previous years. Although employment was not reduced during 1964, production operations were at a minimum prior to the closure of the Industry at Grand Turk and South Caicos in December. At the end of 1964 all 133 employees at Grand Turk and South Caicos were laid off and a total of £6,480 was paid out in severance pay. Some employees elected to receive pensions. It is expected that the Company will continue to employ approximately 50 persons at Salt Cay during 1965. The majority of the labour which was laid off at the end of the period was in South Caicos and of these persons some found other employment on the island, a few emigrated and about twenty were taken on for Government works projects.

Throughout 1963 and 1964 the Salt Company consistently employed 200 persons and unemployment relief work for about 45 persons was provided in Grand Turk. The maintenance of a high level of employment in the Salt Company was made possible by a Government subsidy of £25,000 in 1963 and £30,934 in 1964 and by unemployment relief funds which were, where possible, channelled through the industry. The basic wage in the industry remained at 12s. per day and unemployment relief at 12s. per day. The amount of relief work offered varied between three and five days per week.

A factory was set up at Cockburn Harbour in 1962 to process shells and manufacture shell novelties and although this factory was in operation for only a few months, the owners continued to buy conch shells for export. The sisal industry showed no signs of revival and although the quality of sisal harvested increased considerably after the introduction of a premium grade price, sisal was

left unharvested in some areas owing to the shortage in many settlements of men who could help their wives with this work.

The shortage of men in the islands was the obvious result of many continuing to find employment overseas and a considerable, though unknown, sum was sent by them to their dependents, particularly in the Caicos Islands.

Efforts by Government to find work overseas and recruit persons for it continued during 1963 and 1964. After the set-back to the recruitment of seamen caused by the slump in world shipping in the latter part of 1962, National Bulk Carriers Inc., a large American shipping company, began to recruit again during 1963 and at the end of the period under review approximately 76 men, mainly from Grand Turk, were employed aboard vessels belonging to this Company. The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company recruited very few men during 1963 and 1964 but an approach to the Company to take on young men as apprentices was favourably received.

The number of persons employed on a semi-permanent basis at the two American bases was maintained throughout the period under review at approximately 75; 65 being employed at the United States Auxiliary Air Force Guided Missile Base and ten by the United States Naval Facility.

Crawfish and conch fishing, together with the production of sisal, continue to provide the chief source of income in the Caicos Islands. The Caicos Fisheries Ltd., a company engaged in exporting crawfish from the islands, maintained a somewhat lower level of activity than in previous years and paid out in wages to the Caicos Fishermen £13,300 in 1963 and £14,600 in 1964. In 1959, because of the closing of the Bahama Banks, the fishermen of the Caicos developed a new source of income by supplying conch shells to American buyers.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Piece rates are paid in the salt industry wherever possible and an unskilled labourer may earn up to 18s. to £1 a day. Where no piece rates are paid, the standard wage in the industry is 12s. for an eight hour day. For most forms of construction work, concrete mixing and the like, and arduous work in water, the rate is usually £1 a day. Other rates are as follows:

Carpenters, masons, etc.	. . .	35s. – 40s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	. . .	30s. – 35s. per day
Domestic servants (females)	. . .	£8 – £10 per month (usually with rations)

The Bahamas continued to be the main destination for emigrants and for men seeking short periods of work overseas. In addition to the large number of islanders employed regularly by the Owens-Illinois Lumber Company in Andros, an increased number of jobs

became available in Freeport, Grand Bahama, consequent upon the large scale developments taking place there.

The agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities concerning the scale of wages paid for work at the American Bases, which had been made in 1956, was revised in 1959, and again in 1962 as follows:

Group	Minimum per hour		Maximum per hour	
	s.	d. (U.S.)	s.	d. (U.S.)
I. Mechanic, Carpenter, Painter, Mason, Plumber, Electrician, Cook	5	0 (.70c.)	9	4 (\$1.31)
IA. Machine Operator	4	0 (.56c.)	8	0 (\$1.12)
II. Laundry Foreman, Labour Foreman, Cook's Assistant, Supply Clerk, Clerk Typist	3	6 (.50c.)	7	3 (\$1.01)
III. Mechanic Helper, Watchman, Driver, Stevedore	3	6 (.50c.)	5	6 (.77c.)
IV. Orderly, Labourer, Senior Mess Attendant	3	3 (.45c.)	5	3 (.74c.)
V. Mess Attendant, Laundress, Domestic	2	3 (.31c.)	3	6 (.50c.)

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates are to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognised by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	Unit	1961	1962	1963	1964
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef, pickled . . .	lb.	2 10	3 6	3 0	3 0
Beans, kidney . . .	qt.	3 0	3 6	3 0	3 0
Corn	qt.	1 0	1 0	1 3	1 3
Cabbage	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Hominy grits . . .	lb.	9	10	1 7	1 7
Condensed milk . .	14 oz.	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6
Flour	lb.	7	8	8	8
Lard	lb.	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0
Margarine	lb.	2 6	2 6	3 0	3 0
Meat, Jamaican . .	lb.	5 0	5 6	—	—
Onions	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Oranges	doz.	5 0	4 0	4 0	4 0
Plantains	each	4	4	5	4
Pork, pickled . . .	lb.	2 0	2 3	2 0	2 0
Potatoes	lb.	7d to 9d*	8	9	9
Powdered milk . .	lb.	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3
Rice, brown . . .	qt.	1 10	1 10	1 10	1 10
„ white	qt.	2 0	2 6	2 0	2 0
Sugar, granulated	lb.	9½	10½	10	10

* These prices vary due to seasonal changes.

Although the prices of basic foods have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods, are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage

of suitable housing on Grand Turk, and the increased demand brought by the American Bases, rents have remained high. The rent for a small bedroom apartment of the type used mainly by American families averages between \$U.S. 90 and 120 per month.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the island, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom, first approved at the end of 1955, was continued until the end of 1958, when responsibility for it was assumed by the Federal Government until the middle of 1962. £139,483 was made available in 1963 and £159,116 was provided in 1964.

There is no authorised public debt.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four financial years (which are the same as calendar years) are shown in the following tables:

	REVENUE			
	1961 <i>Actual</i> £	1962 <i>Actual</i> £	1963 <i>Actual</i> £	1964 <i>Actual</i> £
Customs	45,150	44,850	48,021	50,289
Port Dues	1,577	1,512	1,684	1,564
Licences and other Internal Revenue	1,620	2,157	1,976	2,308
Fees of Court and Office	961	2,122	1,050	1,657
Departmental Revenue	452	1,084	1,180	1,197
Reimbursements	4,237	3,722	1,895	862
Post Office	6,680	5,191	7,699	8,610
Interest	1,216	1,393	1,699	394
Miscellaneous	2,209	2,447	2,253	4,099
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	64,102	64,478	67,457	70,980
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	—	1,763	4,841	3,733
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes Recurrent				
Head 9 Education	—	—	—	2,728
1960 Hurricane (Donna) Reconstruction Programme	44,219	15,044	3,744	279
Grant-in-aid of Administration	107,073	106,335	139,483	142,691
Land Sales	250	—	20	—
TOTAL ORDINARY REVENUE	215,644	187,620	215,545	220,411
<i>Carried forward</i>	215,644	187,620	215,545	220,411

REVENUE—continued

	1961 Actual £	1962 Actual £	1963 Actual £	1964 Actual £
<i>Brought forward</i>	215,644	187,620	215,545	220,411
CAPITAL				
Sale of Investments:				
Motor Launch Replace- ment Fund	7,007	5,948	—	—
Insurance Motor Launch <i>Princess Pat</i>	12,375	—	—	—
Grant-in-aid	—	—	—	16,425
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	21,889	22,460	10,181	30,797
TOTAL REVENUE	£256,915	£216,028	£225,726	£267,633

EXPENDITURE

	1961 Actual £	1962 Actual £	1963 Actual £	1964 Actual £
Pensions	4,721	3,740	10,364	6,327
Administrator's Department	14,317	18,577	23,875	24,880
Treasury and Customs	9,658	10,652	9,526	9,378
Judicial Department	4,950	4,146	3,966	4,423
Police Department	10,076	11,030	12,738	11,743
Prison Department	3,026	2,922	3,289	3,104
Medical Department	15,721	18,023	26,487	22,321
Paupers and Lunatics	1,733	1,748	1,659	2,374
Education Department:				
Revenue	14,831	20,164	21,306	22,027
C.D.W. Scheme	—	—	—	2,178
Miscellaneous	12,053	10,828	9,422	11,308
Post Office and Savings Bank	5,967	6,494	7,869	8,848
Lighthouses	1,547	2,805	1,748	1,812
Savings Bank	612	668	614	612
Public Works Department	4,260	3,216	3,272	3,022
Public Works Recurrent	5,692	5,018	7,019	10,369
Public Works Extraordinary	12,511	5,012	7,672	—
Unemployment Relief	16,932	17,000	17,000	10,711
Drought	497	740	—	—
Grant to Turks Islands Salt Company Limited	12,500	17,500	35,000	30,934
Industries	—	664	567	650
Social Services	—	—	828	525
Salaries Revision	—	—	—	4,858
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	—	2,598	3,506	3,841
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	151,604	163,545	207,727	196,245
Survey Deep Water Harbour, Cockburn Harbour	—	—	2,691	—
Repayment of Jamaica Gov- ernment Loan	—	—	21,787	—
Industrial Development	1,373	—	—	—
Motor Launch Replacement Fund Investment	12,375	—	—	—

EXPENDITURE—*continued*

	1961 <i>Actual</i> £	1962 <i>Actual</i> £	1963 <i>Actual</i> £	1964 <i>Actual</i> £
Purchase of Motor Launch <i>Sea Horse</i>	7,101	5,854	—	—
Redemption Preference Shares Turks Islands Salt Company	—	21,250	—	—
Electricity Project	—	556	—	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	24,330	22,712	15,242	—
Administration:				
Revenue	—	—	—	3,497
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	2,079
Communications and Works:				
Revenue	—	—	—	7,162
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	431
Industries:				
Revenue	—	32	511	—
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	258
Land and Property Purchases:				
Revenue	—	—	—	6,075
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous:				
Revenue	—	—	—	—
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	22,629
Social Services:				
Revenue	—	—	—	138
C.D.W. Schemes	—	—	—	540
1960 Hurricane Donna Re- construction Programme	42,244	15,559	3,271	237
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£239,027	£229,508	£251,229	£239,291

No direct taxation is levied in the islands, there being no poll, income or property tax.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in circulation is Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations, the Jamaica Government having agreed to the use of its currency after independence. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaican Notes	50,000
Jamaica Nickel	100
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

There are no commercial banks operating in the islands. The Government Savings Bank in its three branches at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay held £145,012 in 1,646 accounts on 31st December 1964. A comparative statement during the last five years is as follows:

				<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Withdrawals</i>	<i>Amount due</i>	<i>Number</i>
				<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Depositors</i>	<i>of</i>
						<i>£</i>	<i>Accounts</i>
							<i>£</i>
1960	.	.	.	61,842	48,689	94,662	1,548
1961	.	.	.	89,883	75,261	111,530	1,326
1962	.	.	.	70,796	74,812	110,740	1,400
1963	.	.	.	87,777	72,269	128,958	1,554
1964	.	.	.	82,804	69,754	145,012	1,646

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports and exports during the last four years was as follows:

				<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
				<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Imports	.	.	.	225,914	249,902	299,880	300,768
Exports	.	.	.	57,503	64,827	72,901	47,173

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past four years:

				<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
				<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
1961	.	.	.	25,045	99,678	101,191	225,914
1962	.	.	.	31,267	96,723	121,912	249,902
1963	.	.	.	34,658	116,606	148,616	299,880
1964	.	.	.	33,062	79,983	187,723	300,768

The main types of imports for the years 1961-64 were:

				<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>
				<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Food, drink and tobacco	.	.	.	136,575	159,185	189,260	194,224
Raw materials	.	.	.	14,723	6,656	11,365	9,774
Manufactured articles	.	.	.	69,158	70,899	80,140	91,079
Unclassified	.	.	.	5,458	13,162	19,115	5,691

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin:

	1961	1962	1963	1964
	%	%	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco .	50	50	48	28
Raw materials .	57	36	36	19
Manufactured articles .	65	60	57	57
Unclassified	48	28	49	79

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

	Jamaica	Other parts of the Common- wealth	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1961	14,939	6,490	36,074	57,503
1962	12,637	7,597	44,593	64,827
1963	10,801	12,793	49,307	72,901
1964	8,340	1,743	37,090	47,173

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

	1961	1962	1963	1964
Salt				
tons	16,151	21,098	26,588	8,271
value	£26,897	£30,400	£37,455	£12,603
Conchs (dried)				
number	1,078,900	1,012,800	757,000	776,500
value	£3,807	£3,477	£1,695	£2,468
Conchs (frozen)				
lb.	2,000	—	—	3,000
value	£58	—	—	£22
Crawfish				
lb.	64,210	79,202	87,530	89,050
value	£20,176	£24,916	£27,906	£25,778
Sisal				
tons	30	32	29	26
value	£3,000	£3,360	£3,045	£2,772
Scalefish				
tons	—	—	—	—
value	—	—	—	—
Conch Shells				
number	427,344	336,376	394,286	480,260
value	£3,565	£2,674	£2,800	£3,530

ORGANISATION OF IMPORT TRADE

During the war the Food Control Department undertook most of the import trade, financed by an advance of £50,000 from the Jamaica Treasury. After the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and in November 1952 the department was converted into a Government-owned limited liability company known as the Turks Islands Importers Limited. In 1955 the company,

together with liability for repaying the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding, was taken over by private enterprise. This firm is still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available. Other importing companies began to operate during 1964.

Price control powers may be exercised by the Administrator under the Trade Law, 1960, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

REMITTANCES

Remittances from abroad which passed through the hands of the Treasury for distribution totalled £39,000 in 1963 and £25,500 in 1964.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

THE production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the traditional and the basic industry of the islands. Production was carried on at the three salt islands, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos, the last being the most important and accounting in normal times for over 50 per cent of the total production. However at the end of 1964 it was decided that operations at South Caicos and Grand Turk should be closed down and that only the operations at Salt Cay should continue. This was a decision which had long been contemplated as the industry became increasingly unprofitable. The difficulties which beset the industry and the events which eventually led to the closing down of the major part of its production are summarised below.

Four grades of salt are exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds; fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish; granulated or three-quarter ground, used mainly in the tanning industry in Jamaica; and fine salt for domestic use in Jamaica. The coarse and fishery salt are normally shipped in bulk, and the granulated and fine salt in bags.

For many years the salt industry has been in decline. Salt is a cheap commodity and has to be produced on a large scale and by mechanical means in order to compete in world markets, whereas the industry in the islands is on a small scale operating principally from Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay, separated by 22 and eight

miles of sea respectively from the headquarters at Grand Turk. None of the salt islands has an adequate harbour, nowhere can vessels drawing more than six feet of water come alongside a wharf, and loading may frequently be interrupted by bad weather conditions. Even South Caicos, which offers the largest quantity of salt for shipment, is badly exposed to the prevailing strong south-east wind. Apart from this, ships are reluctant to call for cargoes of salt because the islands are too small to offer inward cargoes and they must needs travel, for at least some distance, in ballast.

The Turks Islands Salt Company was formed by the Government with the agreement of the private salt proprietors in 1951. It was hoped that by forming a company to control the entire industry, funds would be available to rationalise and develop it; in the event, these expectations were not realised: in every year since 1951 the company has operated much below capacity and has been heavily subsidised, because, being the major employer and the principal producer of income for those who live in these islands, there was little alternative except to keep the industry in operation.

When the company was formed all the ordinary £1 shares, 62,814, were vested in the Government, and 53,186 5½ per cent £1 cumulative preference shares were issued to the proprietors to represent two thirds of an independent valuation of their property, one third having been paid in cash. Small properties valued at £200 or less were fully paid for in cash unless the owners preferred to accept preference shares. Many owners did accept preference shares and these were held until 1961 when finally after protracted discussions with the Secretary of State and the Federal Government they were redeemed at 8s. per 20s. share.

Thus the ownership of the salt industry once more became vested in the Government. There had been considerable difficulty up to this time in freeing the industry of the obligations which had been accepted when the company was set up in 1951. The first move had been made when the Colonial Development Corporation surrendered its debenture for £60,000 in 1959; the second when in 1960 the Federal Government approved funds to pay off in full £6,590 which the company still owed to the salt proprietors for the stocks of salt taken over in 1951; and the last when the preference shares were redeemed.

In September 1962 the Salt Industry Board, which had been inactive since the company had been formed, was wound up and its assets distributed. This board had been set up to manage the common affairs of the industry, such as the maintenance of property, water

courses and shipping areas, held in common, to maintain the quality of the product, to collect payments from the producers and to distribute payments to them.

Up to January 1958 salt was loaded in ships mainly by traditional methods, i.e. by shovels, half bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and salt lighters, and it was impossible by this means to load more than 600 tons a day. In order to obtain ships on charter it was necessary to guarantee a loading rate of 1,000 tons per weather working day, so mechanical equipment was bought with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £35,000. But this equipment brought persistent problems in its train. It was difficult to obtain reliable men to operate and maintain it, for few mechanics with the necessary knowledge were available, there were poor workshop facilities, and no slipway for the barges; communication with the outside world was so unreliable that it was difficult to know in advance which spare parts were likely to be needed. During 1959 and 1960 while the equipment was still new it operated well. But in September 1960 hurricane Donna completed the damage to salinas, sea walls, etc. done by earlier rains and much emergency work had to be done at Cockburn Harbour to make good the damage. Further items of mechanical equipment were purchased at the end of 1962 to keep the industry going but it was obvious that a much larger investment in the company was necessary if it was to even approach its break even point. Salt production by similar methods at Inagua and Long Island in the Bahamas was going ahead on a very large scale; production being based on a figure of 500,000 tons per annum compared with approximately 30,000 per annum in these islands. To attain an appreciable increase in production there would be two first essentials: mechanical harvesting and improved loading facilities at Cockburn Harbour.

The construction of a deep-water harbour at Cockburn Harbour had been considered over many years and was the subject of an engineering survey undertaken at the end of 1962. The estimated cost of construction was £301,000.

Early in 1963 soon after the deep water harbour report became available, a large American salt producing company, whose main competitors were then increasing their production in the Bahamas, became interested in taking over the Salt Company. It was suggested as a basis for discussions with the American Company that the Government might undertake to construct a deep water harbour to permit a much faster rate of loading if the company were to take over the salt industry and obtain the necessary increases in production.

After careful consideration and examination of the physical land area available for salt operations, the American firm decided that even if all suitable available land in South Caicos were turned into salinas, the productive acreage would not permit a profitable level of production. Other estimates confirmed that the available land area was insufficient to obtain production levels comparable with those of Inagua and Long Island.

If the company were to continue on its own then very large investments would have to be made in machinery and in improved loading facilities in the full knowledge that a level of production which would permit the company to break even was unlikely to be obtained.

The plans to install a fine salt plant at Salt Cay which would produce fine salt for a protected market in the Federation of The West Indies had received a severe blow when the Federation was dissolved and although the Jamaica Government had agreed to take a substantial volume of fine and coarse salt, the project had finally to be abandoned during 1963. Not only had efforts to interest a large Jamaica firm in the management of the plant failed because of the small size of the operation but considerable technical difficulties had also developed.

The decision to close operations at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour was finally taken in the middle of 1964 and preparations were made for the payment of pensions and terminal payments and movement of much of the stock of stores and equipment from Cockburn Harbour. It was decided that the operation at Salt Cay should continue as no alternative livelihood could be found for the inhabitants until a fishing co-operative could be developed. It was also essential to continue with salt sales to Jamaica so that a vessel would call regularly with supplies from Jamaica and take sisal from the Caicos Islands to Jamaica where it enjoys a protected market. Given the benefit of the remaining equipment from Cockburn Harbour, it was estimated that the Salt Cay operation would need a subsidy of £10,000 in 1965.

Although several large shipments of coarse salt were made to customers on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States during 1963, salt sales dropped off rapidly during 1964. Although further sales to the Eastern Seaboard could no doubt have been made, the slowness of loading these larger ships by traditional methods and with unreliable equipment increased the risk of the company being faced with demurrage charges which in some circumstances might be as high as the value of the cargo.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and volume of salt shipments in 1963 and 1964:

SALT SHIPMENTS

Destination	1963		1964	
	Quantity (tons)	Value £	Quantity (tons)	Value £
Canada	5,351	7,334	700	993
United States	13,636	13,539	3,690	3,942
Jamaica	3,849	7,756	2,784	5,568
Other British West Indies	1,477	5,460	200	750
French West Indies	2,150	3,199	460	695
Haiti	142	214	437	655
	<u>26,605</u>	<u>£37,502</u>	<u>8,271</u>	<u>£12,603</u>

FISHERIES

The fisheries of the islands have continued to be of great importance, particularly to the Caicos settlements. Prior to hurricane Donna about two million dried conchs used to be exported annually by local sloops from the Caicos Bank to Haiti where they were sold for an average price of about \$U.S. 14.00 per thousand; but during the period under review, exports fell to about half, owing to the destruction of local craft during the hurricane. In 1963 and 1964 political difficulties in Haiti were a further handicap to the trade. These conch sales are the basis of a two-way trade in which vegetables, fruit and other supplies are brought back.

The crawfish industry on the Caicos Bank, although also at a lower level of activity than in earlier years, remained second only to the salt industry in its importance to the islands and in 1964 as a result of the decline in salt exports, became the chief export. Spearing of crawfish was prohibited in 1959 and replaced by trapping in lobster pots and by bully netting. Up to 12 Jamaican fishermen, experienced in handling pots, were retained by Caicos Fisheries Ltd. in 1963 to demonstrate their technique to local fishermen. In 1964 a method of catching crawfish by means of a wire noose was introduced to local fishermen and became popular with the increasing number of fishermen who dive for the crawfish.

Other fisheries are undeveloped. Some interest was shown by outside interests in commercial scale fishing and in 1964 one vessel obtained an experimental licence and landed good catches of grouper, snapper and other varieties of scale fish. During 1964 the Government made plans for the recruitment of a Fisheries Officer and the setting up of a fishing co-operative to be based initially at Salt Cay. Some sponges were exported in the latter part of 1964.

The export of conch shells to Florida (where they are used in decoration) was resumed in 1959, when the Government of the Bahamas forbade the export of conch shells from the Bahama Banks. In order to control exports, an exclusive licence was issued to the Shell Factory of Fort Lauderdale, the proprietor of which bought a vessel, the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory*, to run regularly between the islands and Florida, exporting shells and bringing in supplies, thus making a substantial contribution to the supply position, as well as to employment in the Caicos Islands. A small factory was also set up at Cockburn Harbour to process shells before export and to manufacture shell novelties. Although this operated only for a few months in 1961, conch shells were cleaned and exported from this factory during the period under review.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the American Bases account for a large part of the available land, and the increase in building has continued. There is, however, no great demand for agricultural land.

In the Caicos Islands there is no shortage of land, but the soil is of poor quality and water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these "plantations" as they are called locally. Apart from grants of land made by the Government to the original settlers, much of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental. Leases were drawn up for nearly 1,500 acres of Crown land for use by farmers in connection with the Colonial Development and Welfare agricultural development scheme.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the salt islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans, and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problems are the saline conditions and the uncertain rainfall; in 1959 drought spoiled the crops; in 1960 the second harvest, expected in December, was spoiled by the hurricane which inundated the land with salt; although 1961 was the year of high rainfall, the damage done by the hurricane resulted in poor crops and the drought in 1962 was exceptionally severe. In 1963 Hurricane Flora damaged the summer crops and in 1964 only poor crops were harvested.

Sisal is the main cash crop and a valuable source of income in the Caicos Islands. Of the 600 acres planted at Government expense in 1944 little now remains, but the experiment was highly successful

and considerably greater acreage has since been planted by individual farmers. Exports had been 81 tons in 1959. In 1960, owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane and the loss of local sloops which carried the fibre, exports dropped to 41 tons, and fears that it would take fully three years to restore output to its former level were justified, as only 30 tons were exported in 1961 and 32 tons in 1962. However, in 1963 and 1964 harvesting proved to be a greater problem owing to the lack of men in the settlements and only 29 tons and 31 tons were exported in these years. Some improvement in the quality of the fibre has been made by the introduction of a premium grade price and one mechanical decorticator at Bottle Creek.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are killed to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American Bases and keep pigs of an improved quality.

The benefits of the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for Agricultural Development which was introduced in 1959 continued to be felt although the setbacks to the scheme caused by Hurricane Donna in 1960 has prevented the agricultural development that was envisaged. As was feared the conditions created by the Hurricane stimulated the emigration of the labour force to more profitable work in the Bahamas.

It is encouraging to record that the revolving cattle scheme started in 1962 with the introduction of a Jamaica Red Bull and three heifers of the same breed, has been successful and that the stock has thrived.

An Agricultural Extension Officer continued to be employed during the period under review.

MINING

The oil exploration licence granted to the Bahama California Oil Company in 1955 was re-issued in 1963 and renewed in 1964.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the islands is under the control of the Board of Education appointed by the Administrator under the Education Ordinance. The Administrator is Chairman of the Board. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely

dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature. During 1960 a law amending the Education Ordinance was passed, giving the Board of Education control over private schools and also authority to enforce compulsory attendance of all children of school age (7-14 years). Comprehensive Regulations were published by the Board of Education in 1962 to enforce compulsory attendance, and to prescribe both the teachers' conditions of service and the conduct and management of schools. For the first time in many years, an attendance officer was appointed at Grand Turk and at Cockburn Harbour.

There are 13 elementary schools which serve the six inhabited islands. Grand Turk School, consisting of a primary school and a secondary school, provides the only secondary education in the islands. The secondary school prepares pupils for the Cambridge General Certificate of Education, the London General Certificate of Education and the London Chamber of Commerce examinations. Encouraging results at "O" level were returned in 1963 and 1964, and a modern studies sixth form has been added to the secondary school.

There was an improvement in the attendance figures owing to enforcement of compulsory attendance. In 1964 the total numbers of names on the rolls were 1,514 and the average figures for the past three years are:

	1962	1963	1964
Number on roll	1,396	1,449	1,514
Average attendance	1,182	1,374	1,420
Percentage attendance	85	94	93

Education is free and in addition fifteen scholarships worth £48 per annum are awarded to pupils from the out-islands attending the Secondary School at Grand Turk. Most of the teachers in the Caicos Schools are products of the local schools and they are difficult to recruit. Over 90 per cent of the staff are women.

The period of this report saw the growth of a campaign to raise the standard of education of the islands, and in particular that of Grand Turk School: the rise in expenditure on education is an indication of this growth, the figures for the past three years being £20,905 in 1962, £21,604 in 1963 and £24,678 in 1964. A Headmaster and three assistant teachers, who were recruited for service at the Grand Turk School, remained during the period and the standard in the secondary school was raised high enough to create a sixth form in modern studies. One student teacher returned in 1963, having completed her three-year training course in Jamaica;

two student teachers left for training in Jamaica in 1964. These courses have been financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The Education Department in 1963 conducted a summer school for teachers, and in 1964, at Cockburn Harbour, a head-teachers' conference was held with a view to unifying the standards at the primary school level.

In 1963 Mr. C. B. Best assumed the duties of Education Officer in addition to his being Headmaster of the Grand Turk School. Mr. D. N. Allan was recruited from Jamaica as Headmaster of Cockburn Harbour School, and in addition he was given duty as Inspector of Caicos Schools.

A School Feeding Programme was run throughout the period at Bottle Creek School and some beans, flour and rice were provided free by the Church World Service during 1963.

There are no facilities for technical or adult education, but most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk. Grand Turk School also possesses a children's library, and several of the other schools possess small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands continued to be good. There were no outbreaks of cholera, amoebic dysentery, or other water-borne diseases in the period under review. It has been noted however that an outbreak of infant diarrhoea and vomiting occurs when the seasonal drought is at its height and water is in short supply. An increase in the incidence of gonorrhoea was noticed in 1964 when 87 cases were treated. In 1964 there were only two cases of syphilis.

Facilities for sanitation and disposal of garbage are lacking in most centres. In Grand Turk refuse disposal is by burning and covering on waste land well removed from the town. Bins are provided by the Government at strategic points throughout the town and are emptied twice a week. Most houses in Grand Turk have latrines but many are ramshackle structures which vigorously breed flies. Improvements in the garbage disposal system are planned for 1965.

The United States Department of Agriculture has continued its experiments with the sterilisation of flies. The experiment appeared to be very successful indeed but a setback was experienced in 1964. The experiment proceeds.

The attendance at the ante-natal clinic at Grand Turk continues to be satisfactory. The evidence of toxæmia of pregnancy is low. Attendances in 1964 totalled 413 with 125 deliveries of which 52

were carried out by the district midwife in the house. The district midwife also does the post-natal examination of babies and of mothers.

An out-patient clinic is held five days a week at Grand Turk and at Cockburn Harbour. In 1964, 5,350 patients attended the clinic at Grand Turk and 2,542 at Cockburn Harbour.

There is a 20-bed hospital at Grand Turk and a small clinic at Cockburn Harbour where four beds are available for persons arriving from the Caicos settlements.

During the period under review there were considerable difficulties in recruiting qualified medical staff. A medical officer recruited for the Caicos Islands at the end of 1962 was based at South Caicos until September 1964 when he moved to Grand Turk to assume responsibility for the hospital in the absence of a replacement for the medical officer at Grand Turk. Throughout most of the period the post of medical officer, Grand Turk, was filled on a temporary basis by various officers and the Caicos medical officer had to be called to Grand Turk on numerous occasions. At the end of the period an officer who would fill the post on a permanent basis was in view.

The staff at the Grand Turk Hospital normally consists of a matron, four staff nurses, six probationer nurses, and a trained nurse for the dispensary and midwifery work. There is a sanitary inspector at Grand Turk. The medical officer at South Caicos has the help of a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There is also a staff nurse at Bottle Creek. A district midwife was available at Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour and Lorimers and, in addition, eight women who had received a simple training at the Grand Turk Hospital were available in the other Caicos settlements. Thus some form of medical help was available in even the remotest communities.

The Grand Turk medical officer pays regular visits to Salt Cay and the Caicos medical officer tours the Caicos settlements as often as possible.

Government expenditure on medical services was £26,487 in 1963 and £22,321 in 1964.

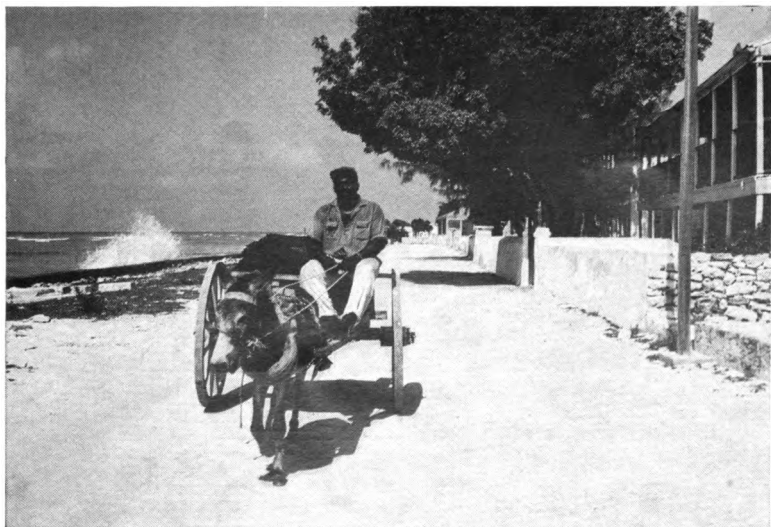
SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare officer recruited in 1962 with the help of the Church World Service to undertake youth work remained in Grand Turk until early in 1963. Unfortunately the officer in question met with considerable difficulties in her work which she alone could not overcome.

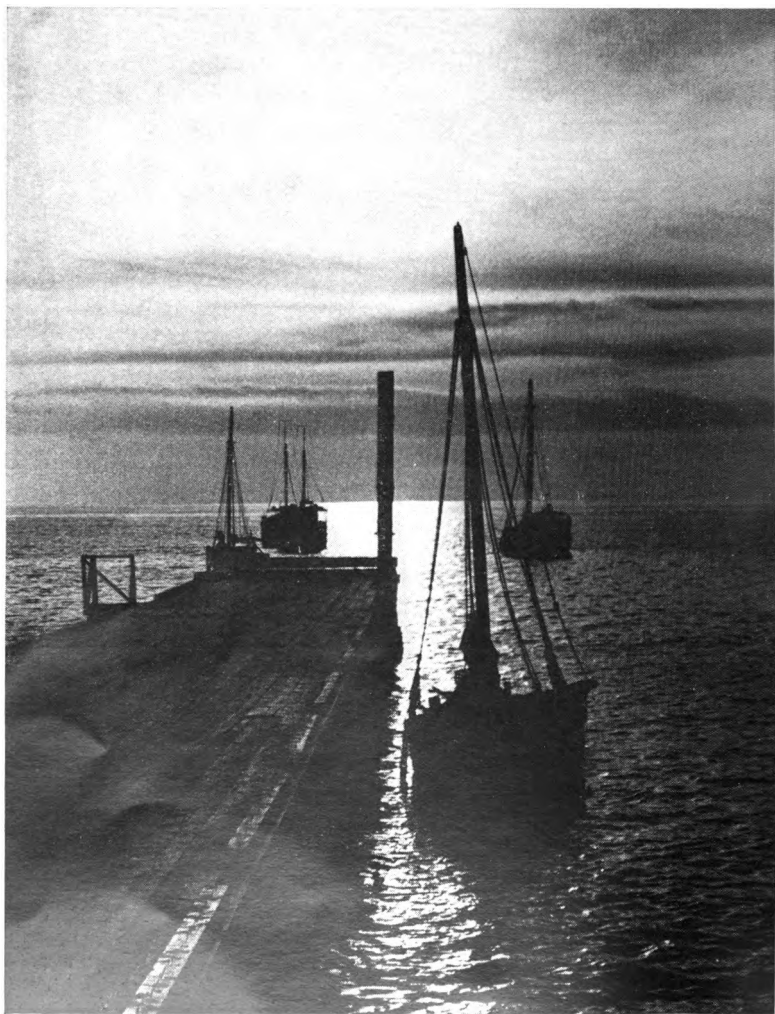
The Church World Service also continued to help with food supplies for the school feeding programme at Bottle Creek and for



The Electricity Supply was opened on 12th June 1964. Before switching on the supply at an informal ceremony, His Honour G. C. Guy, C.M.G., O.B.E., addressed the assembled crowd. Mrs. Guy and Hon. R. E. Basden are also in the photograph.

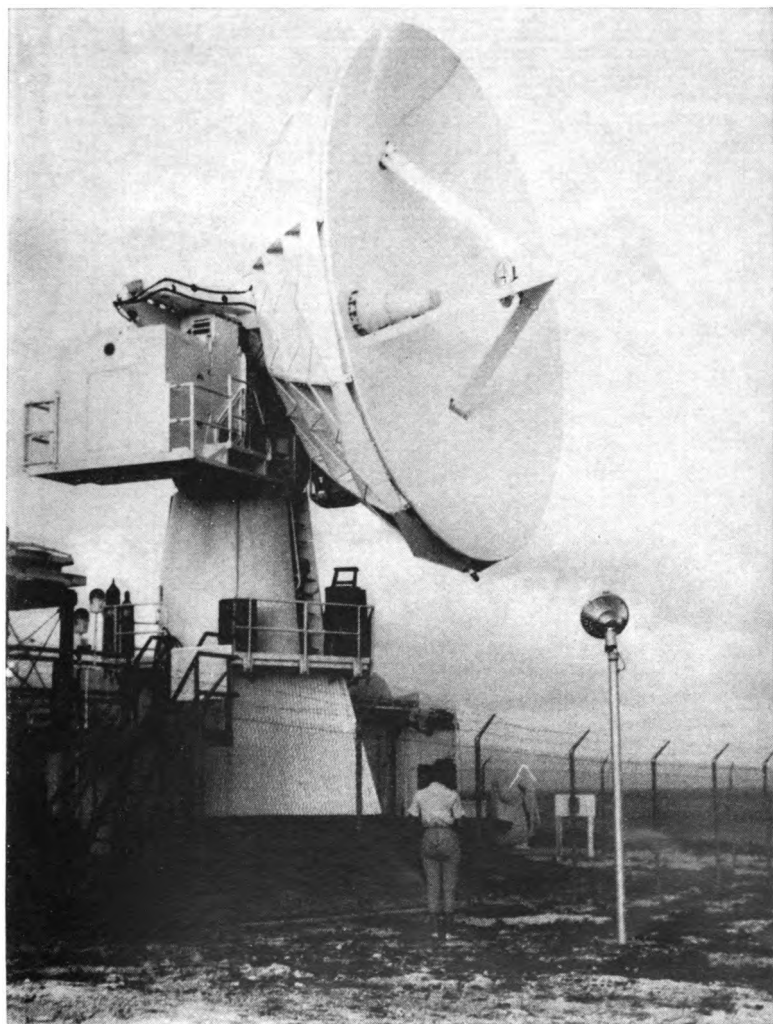


*(Photograph by William Pauling)
Donkey Cart on Front Street, Grand Turk.*



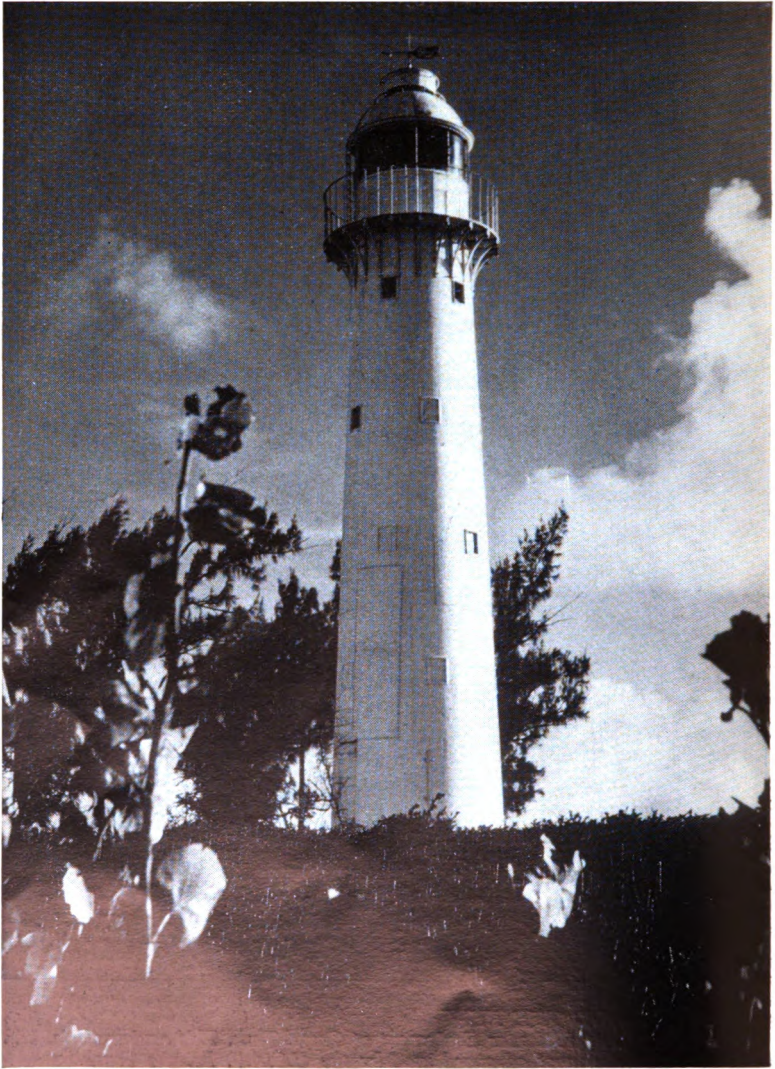
THE OLD

Local sailing vessels at anchor off the Salt Company Pier at Grand Turk.



.....AND THE NEW

The new TPQ18 Radar Equipment at Grand Turk. This equipment is amongst the most advanced used by the U.S.A.F. Missile Tracking Station.



The Lighthouse at the North end of Grand Turk.

distribution to the poor. UNICEF also provided considerable quantities of dried milk for free distribution to pregnant women, nursing mothers and pre-school children in all the settlements.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress and the Poor Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds in necessitous cases.

A cinema club, which is partly Government supported, shows films to the public in Grand Turk twice each week. A small admission fee is charged to cover the cost of hiring films. The club provides a very popular facility.

The weekly news-sheet, *The Pelican*, has continued to be published each week at Grand Turk.

The most active welfare association in the islands is the Child Welfare Association at Grand Turk. The Association runs a child welfare clinic each week which is attended by the Medical Officer. Members of the association also distribute full cream dried milk and vitamins to the mothers of young children. Funds are raised to support the activities of the Association by the members of the Association. The Association again put on Christmas parties for all children under six.

A child welfare clinic is also held in Cockburn Harbour and is attended by the medical officer. In 1964 267 infants were seen at the clinic.

The 13 branches of the Jamaican Federation of Women continued their activities during the period under review. Straw and sisal handwork made by members in the Caicos Islands was sold in Grand Turk as in previous years.

There are Boy Scout troops at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, and Girl Guide companies at Grand Turk and Salt Cay. Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides established contact with their respective organisations in the Bahamas and were able to organise visits by prominent Boy Scout and Girl Guide representatives from Nassau. These visits proved highly successful and reinforced the efforts of the local Commissioners.

HOUSING

The reconstruction programme for houses in the Caicos Islands initiated after Hurricane Donna in 1960 was completed in 1963. The programme resulted in a tremendous improvement in the standard of housing in the Caicos Islands.

There was also a noticeable improvement in the standard of housing in the other islands. Many persons have been able to replace small wooden houses with well designed concrete block structures. Although many unsatisfactory small wooden structures remain, the general trend is towards the construction of more solid and substantial houses.

Chapter 8: Legislation

THE laws which were passed by the Legislative Assembly and assented to by the Administrator during 1963 and 1964 were as follows:

1963

1. The Post Office (Amendment) Law, 1963
2. The Appropriation Law, 1963
3. The Audit Law, 1963.

1964

1. The Appropriation Law, 1962
2. The Electrical Department Law, 1964
3. The Juvenile Law, 1964
4. The Supplementary Appropriation (January to December) Law, 1964
5. The Appropriation Law, 1964
6. The Road Traffic Law, 1964
7. The Pilotage and Harbour (Amendment) Law, 1964
8. The Firearms (Amendment) Law, 1964
9. The Commission of Enquiry Law, 1964.

The purposes of the more important of these laws are set out below.

The Electrical Department Law was enacted to bring into being and govern the operation of the new Electrical Department which was set up when the public electricity supply was introduced in 1964.

The Juvenile Law made provision for juvenile offenders to be sent to remand homes in Jamaica.

The Road Traffic Law was enacted after much delay in drafting and marks the first attempt to exercise control over drivers and vehicles in the islands.

The Commission of Enquiry Law was introduced to enable the Administrator to set up a Commission of Enquiry in any circumstances where he considers it to be in the interests of public welfare.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the islands consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the United Kingdom Parliament and the Bahamas Legislature, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica was empowered to extend its legislation to the islands, and this power remained under the Order in Council of 1959 until 6th August 1962 when Jamaica became independent. Certain Federal Laws were applied to the islands during the short legislative life of the Federation of The West Indies. The new constitution of 1962 enables the islands to retain such applied laws pending re-enactment.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary inquiry is either taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 30 in the islands, or a Judge is sent from Jamaica or the Bahamas to hold the Supreme Court hearing. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases. Appeals from the Supreme Court still lie to the Court of Appeal in Jamaica. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, quarterly at Cockburn Harbour and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek and Blue Hills and Kew. Extra sittings are held as and when required.

POLICE

The Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force was commanded by an Inspector of Police seconded from the Jamaica Constabulary under the administrative supervision of an Assistant Administrator, until 1st June 1963, when the command was taken over by an experienced senior Gazetted Police Officer recruited through the Colonial Office, whose duties were to administer, reorganise, train and increase the efficiency of the Force.

Details of establishment and strength are shown at Appendix II.

The recruiting of suitable young men and women has been difficult owing to the proximity of the Bahamas where salaries both in the Bahamas Police Force and in civil occupations are at least two to

three times higher than can be earned in these islands. However, there were two police women and three police constables recruited on probation.

Towards the middle of and at the end of 1964 a total of four resignations were received from young constables who found the cost of living and long hours of duty incompatible with their small salaries. This necessitated an appeal for assistance to the Bahamas Government, and from mid-November 1964 two sub-officers from the Bahamas Police Force have been stationed at Grand Turk, these officers being relieved by replacements every six weeks.

Good progress has been made with the training of the force.

A three months recruits' course in General Police Duties, Crime Prevention and Detection, based on a Police Training School programme was successfully carried out, together with Refresher Courses for the regular personnel of the Force. One sub-officer received training at the Police Training School at Hendon.

With the assistance of the Government Doctor and manuals obtained from the St. John Headquarters, London, first aid was introduced and adult first aid certificates were won by all personnel who were instructed.

Application has been made for the registration of the Force as a Police Division.

Crime Statistics for 1963 and 1964 are shown in Appendix III.

General

Reorganisation of the Force has included the setting up of a Police Headquarters within the Grand Turk Police Station, and the Force divided into two Divisions: Turks Division comprising Grand Turk and Salt Cay, and the Caicos Division comprising the whole of the Caicos Islands.

Amendments have been made to the Police Ordinance bringing into force a Discipline Code, and powers to finger print and photograph persons in lawful custody. A small Finger Print Record System and Criminal Records Office was commenced after obtaining photographic and finger print equipment. Arrangements have been made for a constable to undergo a finger print and photographic course with the Bahamas Police Force during 1965.

Police Standing Orders, new police forms and books, and beat systems have been implemented, and the firearms licensing and records re-organised.

Immigration has been partially taken over by the Police and all immigration records are housed and maintained at Police Headquarters.

The combined Police Headquarters and Grand Turk Police Station building was completely redecorated inside and out after extensive alterations were made internally. Electricity was made available towards the end of the year.

THE PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica. The prison is a substantial building with very adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders, the matron being employed only when there is a female prisoner. The prison population averages about four.

The Magistrate acts as Inspector of Prisons and is chairman of the Prison Board, which inspects and interviews prisoners every month. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and by the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government property and in breaking stones.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

EXCEPT in Grand Turk, no public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist, there being no piped water supply, and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from diesel-operated generators, and waterborne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. In Grand Turk a public electricity supply with a capacity of 250 kW was introduced in 1964 and at the end of the period over one hundred premises were connected to the supply. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain-water from their roofs, this being the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon. There are 24 of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,208,000 gallons as follows:

	<i>Number of tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	11	737,000
Salt Cay	4	126,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	5	265,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	20,000
Bottle Creek	1	10,000
Sandy Point	1	10,000
TOTAL	24	1,208,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation or for human consumption.

In 1963 and 1964 no serious drought was experienced in the islands and the Government was able to avoid calling upon the United States bases for water supplies.

Major projects undertaken by the Public Works Department during the period were the construction of wireless transmitter and receiver buildings in the Caicos Islands; major repairs to the Government wharf at Grand Turk; extra water tanks and school buildings in Salt Cay and in the Caicos Islands and the construction of the power station at Grand Turk.

The construction of the electrical distribution system and the operation of the power supply was undertaken by an officer recruited under a British Technical Assistance Scheme.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a superintendent with a regular staff of three persons, others being employed when required. The Department is also responsible for the labour force employed under the Unemployment Relief Programme.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

EARLY in 1963 the M.V. *Carib Queen* which plied between Kingston and Grand Turk at approximately three weekly intervals, was burnt out in Kingston Harbour. Another vessel the M.V. *Merville* was obtained to bring mail and many essential supplies to Grand Turk and to take out salt and sisal for Jamaica. However, the M.V. *Merville* sank off Haiti shortly after beginning operation and the M.V. *Merco* then took over the run. During the period there was considerable disruption of the service.

There was an increase in the amount of freight and supplies shipped from Miami during the period and two small vessels were usually employed in the trade. During 1964 there was a considerable improvement in the supply and quality of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables shipped from Miami.

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company provide a very important service from Amsterdam and from New York. One KNSM vessel from each of these ports calls every six weeks at Grand Turk.

Elders and Fyffes steamers out of Avonmouth pass regularly through the Turks Islands passage but do not call.

AIR SERVICES

The twice weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk continued throughout the period under review and became established as a most important communication link with the outside world.

There was a large increase during the period in the number of light private aircraft calling at South Caicos to use the refuelling and Guest House facilities introduced by Caicos Holdings.

POSTAL SERVICES

All air mail is routed through Nassau on Mondays and Fridays and surface mail is carried by sea to Kingston, Jamaica, at approximately three weekly intervals. The Post Office dealt with approximately 2,100 parcels and 142,600 letters in 1963.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction with cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. operate a radio telephone service to Kingston with connections to the North American mainland. A law to renew the cable privileges of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for a further twenty years was enacted in 1962, and the company's wireless licence was renewed at the same time.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless provides a twice daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

In 1963 the Government introduced V.H.F. radio telephone equipment into three Caicos settlements. The equipment has functioned only spasmodically and at the end of the period efforts were still being made to bring the system into full operation.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which now has the capacity for 100 connections. The central switch-board is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

There is a tar macadam road from the Naval Facility at the north end of Grand Turk to the Air Force Base at the south end, which was built by the United States authorities in 1955.

Local roads in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour are surfaced with scale from the salt ponds. This provides a hard and durable surface although it hastens the deterioration of motor vehicles. There is only one motor vehicle in the lower Caicos Islands and no roads suitable for vehicular traffic. Most travelling is done by sailing boat although there are tracks suitable for donkey carts. An increasing number of motor vehicles were imported into Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour from Miami during the period.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals in the islands. The Government Printing Office prints the official *Gazette* each week. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited distributed a limited number of copies of the daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy. A duplicated broadsheet *The Pelican* was produced voluntarily by Government staff each week from January 1962, containing news of local interest and was well received both at home and abroad.

There are no Government information services, but by courtesy of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited a Government news bulletin is broadcast daily at 1.30 p.m. This consists of a five minute review of local news and Government announcements, and is eagerly awaited each day in the Caicos settlements who regard it as their principal contact with the outside world.

Using a cinema projector owned by the Government, and a room at the Grand Turk School, which had originally been built partly for this purpose, a voluntary cinema club organised a twice-weekly cinema show throughout the period. A small charge for admission was made to cover the cost of hiring films. This provided a service much needed by the public.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between latitude 21° and 22° north and longitude 71° and $72^{\circ} 30'$ west, at the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been made until recently. Gradual filling of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated at 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank as described by Dr. Brown in his *Survey of Sponge Grounds* (1938) is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of them but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called locally Blue Hills) and West Caicos.

At varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush". The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and sea water swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, and economically most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank". This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (*annelida mollusca* and *crustacea*). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. Average rainfall is slightly above 20" per annum although the annual rainfall has been variable in recent years. For example, 46 inches was recorded in 1961 compared with 12 inches in 1962.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour. In September 1960 Hurricane Donna did some harm to Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but its full force struck the Caicos Islands where it did great damage. Its accompanying tidal wave carved out a new mouth to Bottle Creek and isolated the settlement of Whitby by a lake of sea water. In 1963 Hurricanes Edith and Flora gave concern to the inhabitants of the islands. In the event, Hurricane Flora did considerable damage to crops and to sloops in the Caicos Islands but the damage could in no way be compared with that of Hurricane Donna.

Chapter 2: History

THE Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, and this theory which was once discredited has recently been put forward again. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in several of the Caicos Islands and in particular in a cave in Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while en route for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island", possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at "the island of Caycos". Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt "at the Island Caycos".

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November when the salt raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, one Andrew Symmer, was appointed in 1766 "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty". This was the first regularly established government.

By an Order-in-Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of Loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remains.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848 in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. In July 1959 a new constitution was introduced, providing for an unofficial majority in an elected Legislative Assembly, and for an Executive Council to advise the Administrator, who administered the islands under the Governor of Jamaica, who, by virtue of his office, was also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During 1961 the islands negotiated to become an associated territory of the Federation of the West Indies, but all hopes of this were lost when Jamaica decided to withdraw from it. Negotiations then followed to become an associated territory of Jamaica on its independence, but the clear wish of the people was to remain a British colony. So on 6th August 1962 another new constitution was introduced, similar to that of 1959, but transferring the powers held by the Governor to the Administrator. In fact this was a return to the system of government introduced in 1848 and abandoned in 1873.

New elections were held in September 1962, following which, for the first time, the "membership" system was introduced, whereby the two unofficial members of the Executive Council share more directly in the responsibilities of government.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track". During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928, 1945, and 1960, the most severe being those of 1866, 1945 and 1960. Over £40,000 was spent on repairing damage inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation. From September to December 1960 over £30,000 was spent in emergency relief, mostly in Caicos, and a further £56,000 out of a total approved grant of £94,000, was spent in 1961 and 1962.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but usually with only short-lived success. In 1943 arrangements were made for the m.v. *Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry to make a minimum of twelve round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the m.v. *Kirkland* of Honduran

registry, in 1957 by the m.v. *Kirksons* and in 1960 by the m.v. *Carib Queen*. The latter vessel was destroyed by fire in 1963 and the m.v. *Merco* now undertakes the run. In 1960 the m.v. *Miss Shell Factory* started carrying conch shells to Miami about every six weeks, and this continued during the period under review.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company Limited) and Grand Turk came to be an important Cable station. In 1923 an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless Limited who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Limited are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Limited established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service from Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December 1947.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947. In the period under review this airstrip has been used by approximately 100 light aircraft each month using the refuelling and guest lodge facilities of Caicos Holdings Ltd.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Later in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the islands, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive. In March 1956 a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Limited. During the latter half of 1962, at the beginning of the winter tourist season in the Bahamas, this service became twice weekly.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Limited to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the Guided Missile Base.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head-right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. In 1951 under the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received exclusive right to export salt from the islands, the freeholders then receiving one third of the assessed value of their property in cash and two thirds in preference shares. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry. In 1961, with funds generously made available by the Federal Government of the West Indies, these preference shares were redeemed by the Turks Islands Government. In September 1962 the Salt Industry Board was wound up and its assets distributed. Thus there is again full government ownership of the industry, as there was before 1845. The salt operations at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour were finally closed down in December 1964.

*Chapter 3: Administration**

THE islands are administered by an Administrator who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. During the period under review the post was held by Mr. G. C. Guy, C.M.G., O.B.E.. The seat of government is at Grand Turk.

The laws of the islands are passed by the Legislative Assembly over which the Administrator presides or, in his absence, a Deputy President elected by the members of the Assembly. The Assembly consists of the Administrator, not less than two nor more than three official members, not less than two nor more than three nominated members, and nine elected members, representing nine constituencies and chosen by secret ballot and by universal adult suffrage. Before 6th August 1962 the Assembly exercised full legislative and budgetary

* Details of the new constitution introduced in August 1962 are published in Statutory Instrument No. 1649, The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council, 1962.

powers, subject to the assent of the Governor, and it was the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before being introduced. After the 6th August the Governor's powers passed to the Administrator.

There is also an Executive Council, which the Administrator is obliged to consult on all important matters. It consists of two official and one nominated member appointed by the Administrator with the approval of the Secretary of State, and two elected members elected by the nominated and elected members of the Assembly from among the elected members. The Administrator presides.

A Government officer is stationed at Salt Cay and also at Cockburn Harbour, which are ports of entry, to maintain customs, postal and other services. The Caicos Islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales). These areas also form the constituencies for the Legislative Assembly. The District Boards normally consist of eight persons who include the District Constable, the elected member of the Legislative Assembly and usually the school teacher who acts as secretary. Appointments are made by the Administrator after holding unofficial elections.

The Administrator regularly toured the Caicos settlements during the period under review.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued, and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Administrator for approval.

Resulting from the introduction of the new constitution in August 1962, elections for the Legislative Assembly were held throughout the islands on 12th September 1962. Membership of the Legislative Assembly at the end of 1964 was as follows:

Official

G. C. Guy, C.M.G., O.B.E.	(Administrator) President
A. A. M. Tatem	Treasurer
F. F. Dempsey	Magistrate

Nominated

G. E. M. Ewing	(Cockburn Harbour)
J. N. Morgan, M.B.E.	(Salt Cay)
E. T. Wood, I.S.O.	(Grand Turk)

Elected

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
L. H. Francis	(Grand Turk)
A. A. Simons	(Grand Turk)
T. C. Taylor	(Salt Cay)
L. C. Stubbs	(Cockburn Harbour)
T. E. Higgs	(Middle Caicos)
O. J. Gardiner	(Bottle Creek)
H. St. G. Robinson	(Kew)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Providenciales)

To reflect the shift of population confirmed by the census of 1960, legislation was introduced in April 1961 to increase the number of seats at Grand Turk from two to three, and to reduce the number at Bottle Creek from two to one, the number of elected members in the Assembly thus remaining the same.

At its first meeting on 3rd October 1962 the Assembly re-elected Mr. R. E. Basden and Mr. L. H. Francis as the unofficial members of the Executive Council, which they had been in the previous Assembly. They thus became the first unofficial members to take part in the "membership" system.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force Base, the United States Naval Facility, on Grand Turk, and with the United States Coastguard Station on South Caicos.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

IMPERIAL weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

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APPENDIX I

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1963 and 1964

<i>Scheme Number</i>	<i>Title of Scheme</i>	<i>Approved Grant</i>	<i>Revised Expenditure to 31/12/64</i>	
			<i>C.D. & W. Funds</i>	<i>Local Resources</i>
	<i>Minor Amenities</i>	£	£	£
D3840(17)	Provision of Sewing machines for Welfare Work	150	142	47
D4093(17)	Provision storage for dried milk	100	—	—
	<i>Training</i>			
D3446(74)	Training of an officer in sanita- tion	522	502	—
D3735(46)	Training of midwives at Grand Turk Hospital	320	261	—
D3735(65)	Training of Junior Assistant to Government Printer in Jamaica	180	151	—
D4071(67)	Training of Treasury Officer William Jennings in Jamaica	250	241	—
D4071(116)	Mr. A. F. Williams (Administra- tion)	190	—	—
D4071(117)	Mr. Beens (Administration)	65	—	—
D4071(199)	One year course of Secretarial training at Alpha Commercial College, Jamaica (Miss H. Adams)	453	365	—
D4071A (200)	Six months midwifery training in Jamaica (Nurse E. Lewis)	245	239	—
D4071A (210)	Three months X-ray course at Kingston Public Hospital, Jamaica	222	—	—
	<i>Scholarships</i>			
D3741(14)	Training of two Teachers at Shortwood Training College	1,795	1,355	—
D4092(25)	To train a Dentist for service in the Turks and Caicos Islands (cancelled)	1,126	—	—
D4092(36)	Training of two Teachers at Shortwood Training College	1,840	1,426	10
	<i>Carried forward</i>	7,458	4,682	57

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/64	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
	<i>Brought forward</i>	£ 7,458	£ 4,682	£ 57
D4092(47)	Training of Gloria Aslene Lightbourne at Shortwood Training College	790	767	—
D4092(108)	Dentistry Course at University of Toronto (Mr. St. L. Astwood)	1,875	581	—
D5659(50)	Two-year Teacher Training Course at the Mico Training College (Mr. C. R. Williams)	670	282	—
D5659A(51)	Three-year teacher course at the Shortwood Training College, Jamaica (Miss G. E. Gardiner)	690	263	—
	<i>Technical Assistance</i>			
D4070(11)	Visit of Expert from Jamaica Social Welfare Commission	212	129	—
	<i>Grants</i>			
D3269	Improvement in Water Storage and Catchment Areas, Turks and Caicos Islands	25,000	24,881	119
D3765	New Hospital Lighting System	1,700	1,548	—
D3834A	Agricultural Development in the Caicos Islands	15,448	12,449	—
D3843	Improvement or Minor Amenities (Caicos Islands)	2,000	1,875	—
D3991	X-ray unit, Grand Turk Hospital	4,800	4,027	—
D4105	Employment Manager for Turks Islands Salt Company for three years	8,040	3,303	—
D4498	To train a Doctor for service in the Turks and Caicos Islands	2,500	2,190	—
D4502	Provision for the employment of an expatriate Headmaster, Grand Turk School	4,450	3,706	2,729
D4549A	Provision of Wireless Transmitting and Receiving sets in the Caicos Islands	4,527	4,396	29
D4693	Water Storage Tank—Salt Cay	2,500	2,500	—
D4713	Fine Salt Plant—Salt Cay Salt Industry, Turks Islands	31,000	5,746	—
D4844	Provision of Launch to establish a regular mail and passenger service in the Caicos Islands	5,000	4,444	—
D5078A	Employment of Manager for the Turks Islands Salt Company	7,543	6,849	—
	<i>Carried forward</i>	126,203	84,618	2,934

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/64	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
	<i>Brought forward</i>	£ 126,203	£ 84,618	£ 2,934
	<i>Grants—continued</i>			
D5197 A & B	Provision of funds to cover establishment and operating cost of Electricity Project .	5,674	3,492	—
D5494	Summer Course for Teachers .	350	330	—
D5532	School Buildings: Salt Cay, Sandy Point and The Bight .	2,600	2,600	—
D6010	Purchase of Light Grab and Diesel operated winch for dredging .	1,300	375	—
D6121	Scholarships for out-island children	850	96	—
		<u>£136,977</u>	<u>£91,511</u>	<u>£2,934</u>
		<i>Approved Loans</i>		
		£	£	£
D3428	Provision of Working Capital for Turks Islands Salt Company:			
	Loan issued July 16, 1958 .	5,000	5,000	—
D3690	Provision of Working Capital for Turks Islands Salt Company:			
	Loan issued March 5, 1959 .	5,000	5,000	—
D3834A	Agricultural Development .	4,500	562	—
D4986	Establishment of Poultry Farm in Grand Turk to provide eggs and broilers:			
	Loan issued December 27, 1961	500	500	—
D5197 & A & B	Electricity Project	23,265	16,283	—
		<u>£38,265</u>	<u>£27,345</u>	<u>—</u>

APPENDIX II

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1963 and 1964

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police		Total dealt with		Disposal of Accepted Cases								
					Acquitted or Discharged	Nolle Prosequi	Convicted	Proven/bound over or Admon./Dis.	Closed undetected		Pending investigation		
	1963	1964	1963	1964					1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964
Against Lawful authority													
		1		1									
Against public morality													
	1	1	1	1		1							1
Against the person													
		1	1	1									1
	25	19	25	19	3	1	20	12	1	4		1	1
Against property													
	26	31	26	31	2		14	13	1	7	9	8	2
	16	17	16	17	1	2	7	5	1	3	7	7	
	1		1								1		
	4	4	4	4		2	2	1		1		2	
TOTAL	74	74	74	74	6	3	43	31	4	15	17	18	5

B: Number of Persons in 1963

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted												Order made		
				Total			Imprison- ment			Corporal punishment			Fined					
				M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv	M	F	Juv
<i>Against lawful authority</i>																		
Against Public Order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>																		
Rape and indecent assault	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
<i>Against the person</i>																		
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	29	3	1	21	3	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	—	4	—	1
Assaults	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>																		
Thefts and other stealings	20	2	—	7	3	8	4	1	—	—	—	7	2	2	—	1	—	1
Burglary, house and store breaking	10	1	—	5	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	6	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	69	7	4	37	7	14	16	1	—	—	—	10	16	6	—	5	—	4

C: Number of Persons in 1964

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted											
				Total			Imprisonment			Corporal punishment			Fined		
				Juv			Juv			Juv			Juv		
				M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M
<i>Against lawful authority</i>															
Against Public Order	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue			1												
<i>Against public morality</i>															
Rape and indecent assault	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>															
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	17	1	—	13	3	—	4	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	3
Assaults	7	—	—	7	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>															
Thefts and other stealings	23	—	1	15	7	—	9	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	5
Burglary, house and store breaking	12	4	—	8	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Prædial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	63	7	2	44	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	12	4	—	11

* Awaiting trial.

APPENDIX III

Establishment and Strength of Police Force as at 30th January, 1965

	S.P.	Sgt.	L/Sgt.	Cpl.	L/Cpl.	P.C.	P.W.
Establishment . . .	1	1	1	1	2	12	2
Strength . . .	1	1	1	2*	3†	5	2

* Includes 1 Bahama Police Force Cpl. on secondment.

† Includes 1 Bahama Police Force L/Cpl. on secondment.

APPENDIX IV

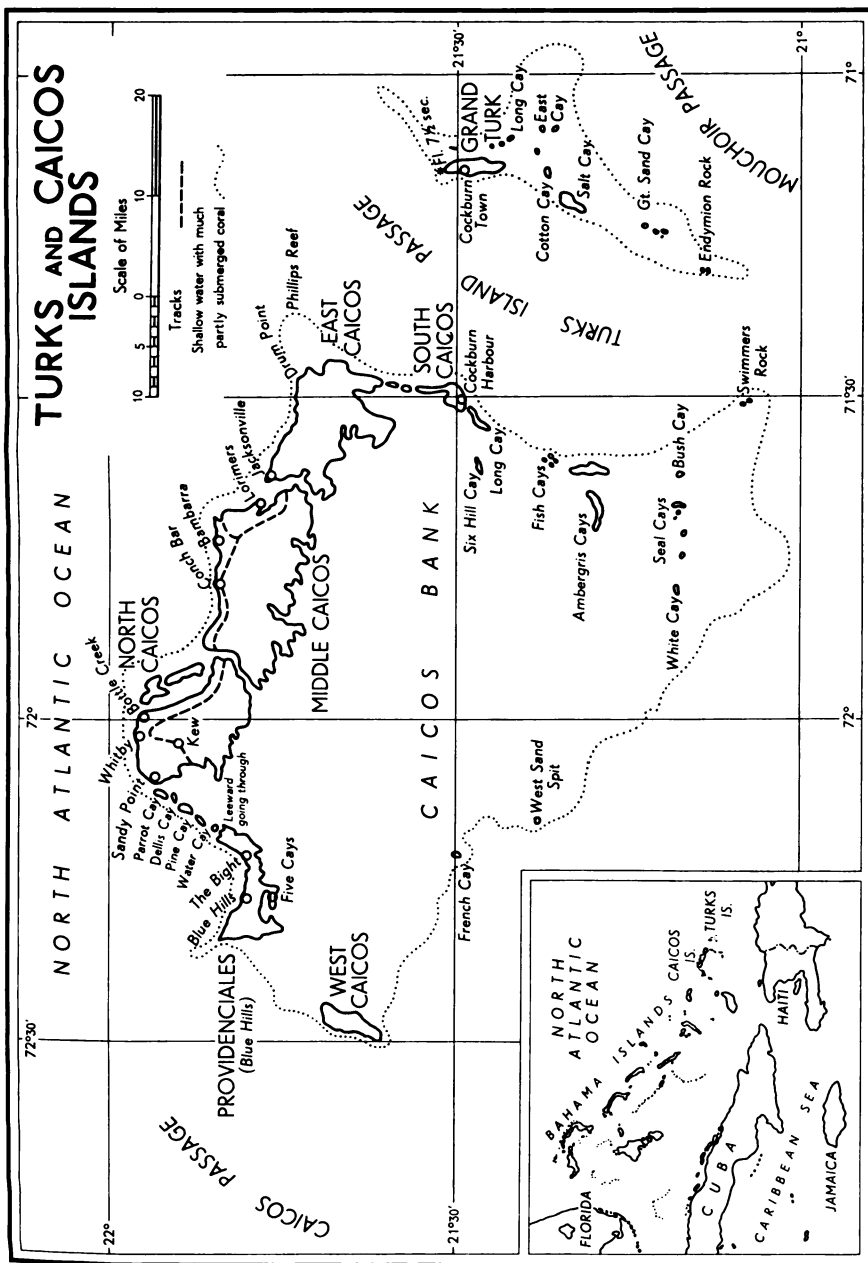
Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1963 and 1964

A: Cases dealt with

Offences	Total		Convicted		Discharged		Pending investigation or trial	
	1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964	1963	1964
Against Traffic Ordinance . . .	5	5	5	5	—	—	—	—
Against Township Ordinance . . .	—	12	—	12	—	—	—	—
Against Liquor Ordinance . . .	—	7	—	4	—	—	—	3
Against Gambling . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences . . .	104	112	83	86	21	23	—	3
TOTAL . . .	109	136	88	107	21	23	—	6

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Turks & Caicos Islands 1965 and 1966

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**Report for the years
1965 and 1966**

**LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1968**

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PART I

Review of 1965 and 1966

THE most important and memorable event in the period under review was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Grand Turk and East Harbour in South Caicos on the 25th February, 1966, during the Royal Tour of the Caribbean. The Royal Visit included a short tour of the United States Air Force Missile Tracking Station and a tour of various installations in South Caicos. A reception and investiture was held at Government House at which Her Majesty invested Mr. E. T. Wood, I.S.O., with the insignia of an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, and four Turks and Caicos Islanders with the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour. In the 1965 Birthday Honours, the Hon. Arthur Tatem, the Treasurer, was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire and was the first Turks Islander to be invested by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. In June 1966, Mr. George Ewing of South Caicos was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Birthday Honours List. The Royal Visit gave the people of the territory very great pleasure; not only was it the first time that a reigning monarch had visited the islands but it occurred in the year which marked the 200th anniversary of the ties of the Turks and Caicos Islands with Great Britain. A special commemorative set of stamps was issued to mark this anniversary.

Other visitors to the islands included two Members of Parliament - Messrs. Maurice Edelman and Douglas Dodds-Parker, who were in the islands from the 6th to 13th August 1965, on a fact-finding tour at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; subsequently they submitted their recommendations for the development of the territory.

Another significant event in the history of the islands was the amendment of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution on the 5th November 1965, whereby the Governor of the Bahamas, Sir Ralph Grey, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., was also made Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

On the 15th December 1965, the Governor visited Grand Turk and attended and opened the Legislative Assembly as President. H.M.S. *Whirlwind* was at Grand Turk for the occasion and provided a Royal Marine Guard of Honour. The Governor again visited the islands in February, April and December 1966.

H.M.S. *Ursa* visited the territory from the 15th to the 17th April 1966, and H.M.S. *Tartar* paid two visits, the first from the 27th to 29th October 1965, and the second visit in the wake of hurricane "Faith".

On a number of occasions during 1965-66 hurricane warnings were received in the islands and precautions put into operation. Only two hurricanes caused damage, which, fortunately, was slight. On 1st and 2nd September 1965 hurricane "Betsy" remained almost stationary 170 miles east-north-east of Grand Turk, later moving up into the Bahamas group. During this pause in its course the captain of the *Miss Shell Factory* which was anchored in East Harbour, fearing that the hurricane would move that way, sailed for Nassau. Unfortunately his radio failed and the ship was overtaken by "Betsy" and sank off Cat Island in the Bahamas Group. The crew were picked up by H.M.S. *Relentless* after thirteen hours in the ship's boat.

On the 3rd November 1965, the *Sea Searcher* which replaced the *Miss Shell Factory*, ran aground on a coral head off Cockburn Town, broke up and sank almost immediately.

On the 28th August 1966, hurricane "Faith" passed within 65 miles to the east-north-east of Grand Turk, and heavy seas caused damage to breakwaters and seawalls. No further damage occurred.

On the 26th November 1965, the M.V. *Merco*, the mail and supply vessel running between Turks and Caicos and Jamaica, sank while en route from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands; since then surface mails and supplies have been most erratic.

Other vessels lost during the period under review were the M.V. *Misty*, a shrimp boat from Florida which ran aground on 20th March 1966, on a reef off East Caicos, and a private yacht *Wanderer* which ran aground and sank off Salt Cay on the 21st July; there was no loss of life in either of these cases. The M.V. *Suleka* of 232 tons, on her maiden voyage to San Juan, ran aground on a reef on the night of 13th/14th October, 1966. This ship was subsequently refloated on 29th October by a tug from Jamaica.

In September 1966 the Turks and Caicos Air Services Ltd. made the first route evaluation flight in their Canadair D.C.4 freight plane to the islands, since when a further four freight-carrying flights have

been made under charter to Caicos Holdings Ltd. The planes were also used to fly patients from South Caicos to Grand Turk and on one occasion to search for two missing fishermen.

Owing to prolonged drought for most of the period under review it was found necessary to provide famine relief in the Caicos Islands; the only occasion when heavy rain did fall was after a hurricane, and then torrential rains and strong winds flattened and swamped crops on Middle Caicos and Providenciales. Oxfam also provided £4,000 for relief of famine and some of these funds were paid to workers on Providenciales to construct a landing ground. There is little doubt that the usable airstrip on the island assisted in attracting prospective investors to Providenciales, and this should contribute to the early development of this island.

At the end of 1966 construction financed under the Works Programme began on an airstrip at Salt Cay, an island where the community can be isolated for weeks at a time during the winter season when seas are too rough for boats to put out for Grand Turk.

Early in 1965, Mr. B. A. W. Trevallion, a town planner from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, spent five weeks in the islands preparing a report on the infra-structure necessary for a tourist industry in the territory. To implement his report would have required the expenditure of very considerable sums of Government money which were not available for this purpose; however, his proposals have been used as the basis for a less ambitious plan which is being followed and the greater portion of development funds for the current period are being used to improve communications. It is hoped that by improving communications and by insisting that those who wish to acquire freehold title to large areas of land must first contribute in some way to the provision of public services which are essential to tourist development, the same object will be achieved, albeit over a longer period. However, owing to the need to create new Government services and to expand and improve existing services this more gradual development may in the long run be the more effective manner of developing the islands.

The current development plan for 1966-68 is aimed primarily at implementing these proposals and a total of £25,000 has been spent on mechanical equipment. In September 1966, a civil engineer with experience of airfield construction arrived in the territory to undertake development works. Estimates of the cost of some of these works are still being prepared but it is hoped that work will start on some of the schemes early in 1967, the highest priority being the need to surface, fence, and light the South Caicos airfield.

During the last eighteen months covered by this report there has been an active interest shown in the tourist potential of the islands, and by the end of 1966 considerable progress had been made. The Executive Council agreed to the leasing of 4,000 acres in Providenciales to Provident Ltd., and gave the company an option to outright purchase on completion of certain development projects which had been approved by Council, and in November 1966 the company surveyor arrived in the islands with equipment to undertake a survey of the land in question. The Council also negotiated with other prospective investors for the development of the whole of the islands of West and East Caicos, and Pine Cay; a portion of East Cay in the Turks Islands Group had also been leased for the purpose of establishing an experimental station for research and development work in connection with under-water electronic apparatus. In this case also Council insisted that the right to purchase be tied to the provision of certain public services such as a safe anchorage, a lighthouse, etc.

Owing to the number of applications received for land for development purposes and the very incomplete land records available, the Executive Council has temporarily ruled that no more applications for large acreages of land can be processed until it has been possible to determine exactly what land is Government owned. With this in view a land surveyor arrived in the territory in November 1966 on secondment from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys to undertake a complete survey of Government land in the islands, registering title to private land, and establishing a land office in which complete land records and land titles would be registered.

Mr. S. R. Simpson, C.B.E., Land Tenure Adviser at the Ministry of Overseas Development, and Mr. I. E. Morgan, formerly Principal Registrar of Titles in Kenya, paid a short visit to the territory in November/December 1966. Their terms of reference were "to advise on the registration of land titles and to prepare legislation for the settlement of rights to land and the registration of land". Colonel W. D. C. Wiggins, O.B.E., Director of Overseas Surveys, and Lt. Colonel D. L. Leach, Superintending Surveyor of the Crown Lands Department of the Bahamas, were also able to visit Grand Turk at the same period and to take part in the discussions which preceded the introduction of land and survey legislation in 1967.

In June 1965, the Turks Head Inn, a small Government-owned hotel, was opened on Grand Turk to fill a much needed demand. Owing to its small size (it possesses only ten beds) the hotel has only just paid its way over the first eighteen months and it was not possible to repay instalments due on a Colonial Development and Welfare loan granted in 1964. During the past two years there has also been

encouraging development in South Caicos, and Caicos Holdings Ltd, have added a further 12 beds to the Admirals' Arms hotel. The number of private aircraft calling at South Caicos now regularly exceeds 100 per month. Caicos Holdings have intimated their interest in providing all facilities, including the construction of terminal buildings at the airport, in return for an operating franchise, once Government has completed the surfacing, fencing, and lighting of the airstrip.

In Grand Turk the owners of Bahamas Buyers have shown initiative and enterprise in building a provision and general store and an open air cinema, a much appreciated amenity in the town.

It is apparent that at present the only alternative industry to tourism with any potential at all is the fisheries industry and with a view to developing the industry a Fisheries Officer was appointed in April 1966. His first task was to undertake a survey of the fisheries potential, to assess his requirements in implementing the scheme to improve the existing industry, and to encourage local fishermen to play a larger part in fisheries. He will undertake research into better methods of fishing and the possibility of extending the area of operation. He will also investigate the possibility of a wider market for fisheries products other than crawfish, and will encourage and advise local fishermen on how to improve their methods. He will be responsible for a tighter control of the industry both internally through the licensed operators and by a stricter enforcement of fishing regulations. Early in 1965 there were reports of an increase in the poaching of crawfish in Turks and Caicos Islands territorial waters during the close season. In April an offender was prosecuted and fines totalling £670 were imposed together with the confiscation of all movable equipment and gear aboard the vessel *Lady Lil*. Further reports of poaching were received from time to time but none of these was substantiated.

The closure of the salt industry on Grand Turk and South Caicos at the end of 1964 caused a temporary unemployment problem but the more enterprising workers sought employment in the Bahamas or on ships; the majority of those who remained found work in the Public Works Department on the local works programme. Preparations for the Royal Visit and the resurfacing of all roads on the island, with the co-operation and assistance of United States contractors, also helped to relieve the unemployment problem.

Production of salt at Salt Cay continued throughout the period under review, and at the end of 1966 negotiations were continuing with a Jamaican company to arrange a contract for the purchase of an increased amount of 15,000 tons of salt per annum.

During 1965 and 1966, owing to the low salaries paid by Government, it became almost impossible to encourage any school leavers to join the Public Service; those who did, remained only as long as it took them to acquire a modicum of skill with a typewriter, and some migrated to the Bahamas where higher salaries are paid. In June and July 1966 a Salaries Commissioner visited the territory and as a result of his recommendations salaries were revised with effect from 1st April 1966. The new salary scales for Government staff go some way toward narrowing the gap between wages paid in Nassau and the Turks and Caicos but there is still a marked desire on the part of the youth of the territory to go overseas in search of employment.

Mr. E. C. Reavell, seconded from the Colonial Office, spent five months in the territory during 1966 as adviser to the Government on office management. As a result of his visit the filing system in the Administrator's and other Government offices was reviewed and where necessary reorganised.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

A CENSUS was held on 7th April 1960. The total population (*de jure*) was 5,668 of whom 3,468 lived in the salt producing centres of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, and 2,200 in the Caicos settlements; 2,557 of the total population were children.

The population at the previous census in 1943 was 6,138. Since then the live birth rate has remained high, but there has been a steady and continuous emigration from the islands, principally to the Bahamas. Many of the young men leave, although women and children more frequently stay behind, so that the ratio of females to males is 122:100. The effect of emigration of the male population is evident from the fact that there are approximately 1,600 women to 1,000 men over twenty years of age. This is particularly noticeable at public meetings in the Caicos Islands where women usually outnumber men by two to one. This emigration has continued throughout 1965 and 1966. Since the establishment of the United States military bases, there has been a more or less permanent addition of between two and three hundred American servicemen and civilians stationed in Grand Turk.

The population of the principal settlements on census day was:

Grand Turk	2,180
Salt Cay	448
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	840
Bottle Creek (North Caicos)	700
Kew (North Caicos) (including Sandy Point and Whitby)	450
Blue Hills (Providenciales) (including Five Cays and the Bight)	518
Middle Caicos (including Lorimers, Bambarra and Conch Bar)	532

The population is made up as follows:

Persons of African descent	5,315
Persons of mixed descent	216
Persons of European descent	77
Others not classified	60

The birth rate is far in excess of the death rate, and births and deaths registered during 1965 and 1966 were as follows:

Year	Number of births	Number of deaths	Natural increase
1965	149	66	83
1966	199	63	136

Thirty marriages were registered in 1965, and 25 in 1966.

Migration figures were:

	1965	1966
Entered	1,390	1,453
Departed	1,371	1,389

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

ON the closure of the salt industry in Grand Turk and South Caicos a number of the more enterprising employees sought work in the Bahamas and with various shipping firms. Salt production continued in Salt Cay and an average of fifty-five persons were employed. Production in 1965 was 2,901 tons and in 1966, 5,550 tons. Sale of salt for the same period was 6,773 tons and 5,580 tons respectively. To keep the industry in Salt Cay operating, a Government subsidy of £8,017 was required in 1965 and the revised subsidy in 1966 was £12,000. The basic wage in the industry rose from 12/- per day in 1964 to 23/- per day at the end of 1966 in keeping with increases awarded to labour employed by other Government departments.

In 1966 a company in Jamaica entered into negotiations with Government for the purchase of the full production of salt from Salt Cay—15,000 tons. A tentative price was agreed but was dependent on the renewal of some worn out machinery and extensions to the existing jetty to avoid double handling which was costly. All that remains to be done is the provision of a suitable vessel to transport the salt to Jamaica. Negotiations are in progress.

Government continues to try to place those seeking work overseas in various shipping lines—the most popular being National Bulk Carriers Inc., and at the end of the period under review approximately 35 men from the islands were employed aboard vessels belonging to this company. A further 12 men were employed on ships of the Royal Netherland Steamship Company at the end of 1966.

A total of 82 islanders were employed in the two United States bases at the end of the period under review, 68 at the United States Air Force Guided Missile base and 14 at the United States Naval Facility.

The opening of the Turks Head Inn in Grand Turk and the increase in the number of families of U.S. personnel living on the island have provided additional vacancies for women and there is no longer an unemployment problem in Grand Turk. Despite a small increase in the number of persons employed by Caicos Holdings Ltd. the position in South Caicos is not so satisfactory and during the close season for crawfish there was a serious unemployment problem.

Crawfish fishing improved during the period under review and although there is little demand as yet for conch or fish products other than crawfish, fishermen can make very good wages during the season. By utilising conch and other fish in the off-season it is hoped that work can be provided throughout the year.

Sisal production continues to fall and neither the quantity grown nor the quality warrant any optimism for the future.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Piece rates are paid in the salt industry wherever possible and an unskilled labourer may earn up to 20/- to 25/- a day. Where no piece rates are paid, the standard wage in the industry is 23/- for an eight hour day. For most forms of construction work, concrete mixing and the like, and arduous work in water, the rate is usually 25/- a day. Other rates are as follows:

Carpenters, masons, etc.	35s. - 40s. per day
Truck drivers, mechanics	30s. - 35s. per day
Domestic servants (females)	£12 - £18 per month (usually with rations)

Owing to the low level of wages paid in the islands an increasing number of the population were migrating to the Bahamas for employment and no school leavers were seeking work in Grand Turk; the position deteriorated to such an extent that certain Government departments were unable to function efficiently.

The agreement between the local Government and the United States authorities concerning the scale of wages paid for work at the American bases, which had been made in 1956, was revised in 1959, 1962, and again in 1966 when the following scale applied:

<i>Group</i>		<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
		<i>per hour</i> <i>s. d. (U.S.)</i>	<i>per hour</i> <i>s. d. (U.S.)</i>
I.	Mechanic, Carpenter, Mason, Plumber, Painter, Electrician, Labour Foreman, Cook . . .	6 0 (.84c.)	11 3 (\$1.58)
II.	Laundry Foreman . . .	4 9 (.66c.)	9 9 (\$1.36)
III.	Cook's Assistant I, Clerk Typist, Supply Clerk II . . .	4 3 (.60c.)	8 9 (\$1.22)
IV.	Helper, Driver, Cook's Assist- ant II, Guard . . .	4 3 (.60c.)	6 9 (.94c.)
V.	Labourer, Senior Mess Attend- ant, Laundress, Barracks Orderly . . .	4 0 (.56c.)	6 6 (.91c.)
VI.	Mess Attendant - (Male and Female), Domestic . . .	2 9 (.38c.)	4 3 (.60c.)

Overtime rates of one and one-half of the normal wage rates are to be paid for time in excess of eight hours per day, on Sundays and on all days recognised by the Turks and Caicos Government as public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

The following table gives comparative prices of foodstuffs:

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>1964</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>
		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Beef, pickled . . .	lb.	3 0	3 0	3 6	4 0
Beans, kidney . . .	qt.	3 0	3 0	3 6	3 6
Corn . . .	qt.	1 3	1 3	1 6	1 6
Cabbage . . .	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 6	1 6
Hominy grits . . .	lb.	1 7	1 7	1 8	1 8
Condensed milk . . .	14 oz.	1 6	1 6	1 8	1 8
Flour . . .	lb.	8	8	10	10
Lard . . .	lb.	2 0	2 0	1 11	2 0
Margarine . . .	lb.	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0
Meat (foreign) . . .	lb.	—	—	7 0	7 0
Onions . . .	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Oranges . . .	doz.	4 0	4 0	6 0	6 0
Plantains . . .	each	5	4	5	5
Pork, pickled . . .	lb.	2 0	2 0	2 6	2 6
Potatoes . . .	lb.	9	9	9	9
Powdered milk . . .	lb.	6 3	6 3	6 3	6 3
Rice, brown . . .	qt.	1 10	1 10	1 10	1 10
Rice, white . . .	qt.	2 0	2 0	2 0	2 0
Sugar, granulated . . .	lb.	10	10	10	1 0

Although the prices of basic foods have remained reasonably stable, all others, particularly imported tinned goods, are disproportionately expensive. In addition, because of the acute shortage of suitable housing on Grand Turk, and the increased demand brought by the families of personnel serving on the United States Air Force base, rents have remained high. The rent for a single bedroom apartment of the type used mainly by American families averages between \$ U.S. 90 and 120 per month.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There is only one registered trade union in the island, the St. George's Union in Cockburn Harbour, but this has not been active and no returns have been rendered.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

THE grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom, first approved at the end of 1955, was continued until the end of 1958, when responsibility for it was assumed by the Federal Government until the middle of 1962. £139,483 was made available in 1963, £159,116 in 1964, £176,369 in 1965, and £186,397 in 1966.

There is no authorised public debt.

Revenue and expenditure during the past four financial years (which are the same as calendar years) are shown in the following tables:

	REVENUE			
	1963 Actual	1964 Actual	1965 Actual	1966 Revised Estimates
<i>Recurrent</i>	£	£	£	£
Customs	48,021	50,289	50,718	50,300
Port Dues	1,684	1,564	1,654	1,600
Licences and Other Internal Revenue	1,976	2,308	2,398	2,000
Fees of Court and Office	1,050	1,657	1,349	1,629
Departmental Revenue	1,180	1,197	1,287	1,600
Reimbursements	1,895	862	1,420	1,250
Post Office	7,699	8,610	10,113	21,125
Interest	1,699	394	821	510
Miscellaneous	2,253	4,099	7,192	4,845
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	67,457	70,980	76,952	84,859
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	4,841	3,733	6,429	8,341
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes:				
Recurrent Head Education	—	2,728	2,720	2,473
Head Public Works Dept.	—	—	—	230
1960 Hurricane (Donna) Re-construction Programme .	3,744	279	—	—
Grant-in-aid of Administration	139,483	142,691	176,369	166,483
Land Sales	20	—	—	—
Grant-in-aid Surplus	—	—	—	24,484
TOTAL RECURRENT REVENUE	215,545	220,411	262,470	286,870
<i>Carried forward</i>	215,545	220,411	262,470	286,870

REVENUE—*continued*

	1963 <i>Actual</i>	1964 <i>Actual</i>	1965 <i>Actual</i>	1966 <i>Revised Estimates</i>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Recurrent</i>				
<i>Brought forward</i>	215,545	220,411	262,470	286,870
CAPITAL				
Surplus from previous years	—	—	18,606	2,300
Grant-in-Aid	—	16,425	—	19,914
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	10,181	30,797	21,773	10,720
Contribution from Oxfam	—	—	978	—
TOTAL REVENUE	£225,726	£267,633	£303,827	£319,804

EXPENDITURE

	1963 <i>Actual</i>	1964 <i>Actual</i>	1965 <i>Actual</i>	1966 <i>Revised Estimates</i>
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	10,364	6,327	6,269	6,872
His Excellency the Governor and Staff	—	—	—	1,720
Administrator's Department	23,875	24,880	24,982	29,668
Treasury and Customs	9,526	9,378	11,023	12,319
Judicial Department	3,966	4,423	4,390	5,459
Royal Police Force	12,738	11,743	14,512	21,158
Prison Department	3,289	3,104	3,735	4,195
Medical Department	26,487	22,321	26,639	27,734
Poor Relief	1,659	2,374	4,992	5,500
Education Department:				
Revenue	21,306	22,027	29,288	32,640
C.D. & W. Scheme	—	2,178	2,434	2,473
Miscellaneous	9,422	11,308	10,514	16,230
Post Office and Savings Bank	7,869	8,848	10,074	20,397
Lighthouses	1,748	1,812	1,607	2,194
Savings Bank	614	612	920	1,050
Public Works Department:				
Revenue	3,272	3,022	4,948	5,464
C. D. & W. Scheme	—	—	—	230
Public Works Recurrent	7,019	10,369	15,563	17,750
Public Works Extraordinary	7,672	—	—	—
Unemployment Relief	17,000	10,711	3,000	—
Drought	—	—	24	350
Grant to Turks Islands Salt Company Limited	35,000	30,934	14,497	12,000
Industries	567	650	710	660
Social Services	828	525	845	2,966
Salaries Revision	—	4,858	11	16,000
Works Programme	—	—	14,864	22,200
Famine Relief	—	—	7,490	11,300
Write-off of Accumulated Deficits	—	—	10,214	—
Overseas Service Aid Scheme	3,506	3,841	6,292	8,341
TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	207,727	196,245	229,837	286,870

EXPENDITURE—*continued*

	1963 <i>Actual</i>	1964 <i>Actual</i>	1965 <i>Actual</i>	1966 <i>Revised Estimates</i>
	£	£	£	£
CAPITAL				
Survey Deep Water Harbour, Cockburn Harbour	2,691	—	—	—
Repayment of Jamaica Gov- ernment Loan	21,787	—	—	—
Administration:				
Revenue	—	3,497	2,648	8,416
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	2,079	2,823	1,540
Communications and Works:				
Revenue	—	7,162	11,621	12,150
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	431	2,246	—
Industries:				
Revenue	511	—	—	1,200
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	258	10,500	—
Land and Property Purchases:				
Revenue	—	6,075	—	—
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous:				
Revenue	—	—	—	—
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	22,629	1,739	880
Social Services:				
Revenue	—	138	—	—
C.D. & W. Schemes	—	540	5,791	8,300
1960 Hurricane (Donna) Re- construction Programme	3,271	237	—	—
Write-off of Deficit in 1964	—	—	—	448
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	15,242	—	—	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£251,229	£239,291	£267,205	£319,804

No direct taxation is levied in the islands, there being no poll, income or property tax.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in circulation consists of Jamaican notes and British silver of all denominations, the Jamaica Government having agreed to the use of its currency after independence. Approximate amounts in circulation are estimated to be:

	£
Jamaican Notes	82,000
Jamaican Nickel	100
United Kingdom Silver	2,000
United Kingdom Cupro-Nickel	2,000
United Kingdom Copper	50

A branch of Barclays Bank D.C.O. was opened in Grand Turk on 12th April, 1966.

The Government Savings Bank in its three branches at Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay held £166,998 in 1,813 accounts on 31st December, 1965. A comparative statement for five years is as follows:

	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Withdrawals</i>	<i>Amount due</i> <i>Depositors</i>	<i>Number of</i> <i>Accounts</i>
	£	£	£	
1961	89,883	75,261	111,530	1,326
1962	70,796	74,812	110,740	1,400
1963	87,777	72,269	128,958	1,554
1964	82,804	69,754	145,012	1,646
1965	95,283	76,816	166,998	1,813

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports and exports during the last four years was as follows:

	1963	1964	1965	1966
	£	£	£	£
Imports	299,880	300,768	360,922	422,795
Exports	72,901	47,173	44,444	44,953

IMPORTS

The following table shows the origin of imports during the past four years:

	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Other parts of the Commonwealth</i>	<i>Foreign Countries</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
1963	34,658	116,606	148,616	299,880
1964	33,062	79,983	187,723	300,768
1965	39,674	95,980	225,268	360,922
1966	86,875	86,428	249,492	422,795

The main types of imports for the years 1963-66 were:

	1963	1964	1965	1966
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco	189,260	194,224	233,069	233,643
Raw materials	11,365	9,774	11,729	54,271
Manufactured articles	80,140	91,079	109,294	129,478
Unclassified	19,115	5,691	6,830	5,403

The following table shows the percentage of imports of Commonwealth origin in each group:

	1963	1964	1965	1966
	%	%	%	%
Food, drink and tobacco .	48	28	28	32
Raw materials .	36	19	19	43
Manufactured articles .	57	57	57	55
Unclassified .	49	79	79	69

EXPORTS

The following table shows the destination of exports:

	Jamaica	Other parts of the Common- wealth	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1963	10,801	12,793	49,307	72,901
1964	8,340	1,743	37,090	47,173
1965	7,486	4,004	32,954	44,444
1966	7,300	4,287	33,366	44,953

The quantities and values of the principal items of domestic produce exported over the last four years were as follows:

	1963	1964	1965	1966
Salt:				
tons	26,588	8,271	6,773	5,580
value	£37,455	£12,603	£10,800	£9,732
Conchs (dried):				
number	757,000	776,500	628,500	624,650
value	£1,695	£2,468	£2,183	£2,152
Conchs (frozen):				
lb.	—	3,000	11,250	—
value	—	£22	£196	—
Crawfish:				
lb.	87,530	89,050	83,165	95,875
value	£27,906	£25,778	£25,990	£29,969
Sisal:				
tons	29	26	29	18
value	£3,045	£2,772	£3,389	£1,900
Scalefish:				
tons	—	—	—	—
value	—	—	—	—
Conch Shells:				
number	394,286	480,260	250,601	192,779
value	£2,800	£3,530	£1,886	£1,200

ORGANISATION OF IMPORT TRADE

During the war the Food Control Department undertook most of the import trade, financed by an advance of £50,000 from the Jamaica Treasury. After the war, local traders showed no desire to revert to pre-war practices, and in November 1952 the department was converted into a Government-owned limited liability company known as the Turks Islands Importers Limited. In 1955 the company,

together with liability for repaying the Jamaica Government advance still outstanding, was taken over by private enterprise. This firm is still responsible for ensuring that adequate supplies of foodstuffs are available. Other importing companies began to operate during 1964.

Price control powers may be exercised by the Administrator under the Trade Law, 1960, but only in respect of basic foodstuffs and necessities.

REMITTANCES

Remittances from abroad which passed through the hands of the Treasury for distribution totalled £25,500 in 1964 and about £35,000 in 1965. Remittances in 1966 were received mainly through the local branch of Barclays Bank (D.C.O.).

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

THE production of salt by solar evaporation from sea water remains the traditional and the basic industry of the islands. Production was carried on at Salt Cay, although production in Grand Turk and South Caicos ceased at the end of 1964. This was made necessary as the industry became increasingly unprofitable. The difficulties which beset the industry and the events which led to its closure are outlined below.

Two grades of salt are normally exported: coarse, as extracted from the ponds, and fishery, a grade ground to a fineness suitable for curing fish.

For many years the salt industry has been declining. Salt is a cheap commodity and has to be produced on a large scale and by mechanical means in order to compete in world markets; however the industry in the islands can only be operated on a small scale and the consequent cost of duplicating machinery etc. makes production costs prohibitive.

None of the salt islands has an adequate harbour, nowhere can vessels which draw more than six feet of water come alongside a wharf, and loading may frequently be interrupted by bad weather conditions. Apart from this, ships are reluctant to call for cargoes of salt because the islands are too small to offer inward cargoes and they must travel, for at least some distance, in ballast.

The Turks Islands Salt Company was formed by Government with the agreement of the private salt proprietors in 1951. It was hoped that by forming a company to control the entire industry, funds would be available to rationalise and develop it; in the event, these expectations were not realised; in every year since 1951 the company has operated much below capacity and has been heavily subsidised. As the industry was the major employer of those who live in the islands, there was little alternative but to keep it in operation.

When the company was formed all the ordinary £1 shares, 62,814, were vested in the Government, and 53,186 5½ per cent £1 cumulative preference shares were issued to proprietors to represent two thirds of an independent valuation of their property, one third having been paid in cash. Small properties valued at £200 or less were fully paid for in cash unless the owners preferred to accept preference shares. Many owners did accept preference shares and these were held until 1961 when finally after protracted discussions with the Secretary of State and the Federal Government they were redeemed at 8s. per 20s. share.

Thus the ownership of the salt industry once more became vested in the Government. There had been considerable difficulty up to this time in freeing the industry of the obligations which had been accepted when the company was set up in 1951. The first move had been made when the Colonial Development Corporation surrendered its debenture for £60,000 in 1959; the second when in 1960 the Federal Government approved funds to pay off in full £6,590 which the company still owed to the salt proprietors for the stocks of salt taken over in 1951; and the last when the preference shares were redeemed.

In September 1962 the Salt Industry Board, which had been inactive since the company was formed, was wound up and its assets distributed. This board had been set up to manage the common affairs of the industry, such as the maintenance of property, water courses and shipping areas, held in common, to maintain the quality of the product, to collect payments from the producers and to distribute payments to them.

Up to January 1958 salt was loaded in ships mainly by traditional methods, i.e. by shovels, half bushel cloth bags, donkey carts and salt lighters, and it was impossible by this means to load more than 600 tons a day. In order to obtain ships on charter it was necessary to guarantee a loading rate of 1,000 tons per weather working day, so mechanical equipment was bought with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £35,000. But this equipment brought persistent problems and it was difficult to obtain reliable men to operate and maintain it, for few mechanics with the necessary knowledge

were available. There were poor workshop facilities, and no slipway for the barges; communication with the outside world was so unreliable that it was difficult to know in advance which spare parts were likely to be needed. During 1959 and 1960 while the equipment was still new it operated well. But in September 1960 hurricane Donna completed the damage to salinas, sea walls, etc., done by earlier rains and much emergency work had to be done at Cockburn Harbour to make good the damage. Further items of mechanical equipment were purchased at the end of 1962 to keep the industry going but it was obvious that a much larger investment in the company was necessary if it was even to approach its break even point. Salt production by similar methods at Inagua and Long Island in the Bahamas was going ahead on a very large scale; production was based on a figure of 500,000 tons per annum compared with approximately 30,000 per annum in these islands. To attain an appreciable increase in production there would be two essentials: mechanical harvesting and improved loading facilities at Cockburn Harbour.

The plans to install a fine salt plant at Salt Cay which would produce fine salt for a protected market in the Federation of the West Indies received a severe blow when the Federation was dissolved and although the Jamaica Government agreed to take a substantial volume of fine and coarse salt, the project had finally to be abandoned.

The decision to close operations at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour was finally taken in the middle of 1964 and preparations were made for the payment of pensions and terminal payments and movement of much of the stock and equipment from Cockburn Harbour. It was decided that the operation at Salt Cay should continue as no alternative livelihood could be found for the inhabitants. Production of salt at Salt Cay continued on a reduced scale throughout 1965 and 1966. At the end of 1966 discussions were proceeding with a large chemical company in Jamaica with a view to increasing production to 15,000 tons per annum and resuscitating the industry by the purchase of new equipment costing in the region of £4,000 and by extending the jetty so as to enable ships with a draught of up to 8 ft. to lie alongside to load.

Although several large shipments of coarse salt were made to customers in Canada during 1965 and 1966, throughout the period under review the company has continued to supply their regular customers in Jamaica.

The following table shows the destination, quantity, and volume of salt shipments in 1965 and 1966:

Destination	1965		1966	
	Quantity (tons)	Value £	Quantity (tons)	Value £
Canada	2,879	4,004	2,850	4,287
Jamaica	2,049	4,097	2,700	5,400
French West Indies	1,658	2,418	—	—
Haiti	187	281	30	45
	<u>6,773</u>	<u>£10,800</u>	<u>5,580</u>	<u>£9,732</u>

FISHERIES

Fisheries have continued to be of great economic importance and the spiny lobster or crawfish has become the chief export of the islands.

In 1966, 95,875 lbs. of crawfish (*Palinurus Argus*) were exported, with a return of £29,968 for the fishermen. Free diving with the use of a wire noose was the only fishing method practised by the fishermen and was carried out from small power-driven boats and sailing sloops.

The export of dried conch to Haiti is the second largest export of fisheries products but the industry is still on the decline.

In 1966, 624,650 dried conch meats were exported, with a return of £2,152. In conjunction with the export of conch meat 192,779 shells were exported to the United States. These shells are used in the tourist trade.

Other fisheries remain undeveloped.

A Fisheries Officer was appointed to the islands in 1966. The officer attended the first meeting of the United Nations Special Fund Caribbean Fisheries Project at Barbados, in April 1966, and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute meeting held at New Orleans in November 1966.

The motor vessel *Palinurus* was purchased, as part of the development programme, for research and protection. The vessel is 64 feet in length, 18 ft. beam, with a draft of 6 ft.

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

On Grand Turk suitable land for farming and building is becoming more difficult to find. The salinas and the American bases account for a large part of the available land, and the increase in building has continued. There is, however, no great demand for agricultural land.

In the Caicos Islands there is no shortage of land but the soil is of poor quality and water is always a problem. However, there are small pockets of good soil and the settlers make full use of these 'plantations' as they are called locally. Apart from grants of land made by the Government to the original settlers, much of the land is Crown land and is leased from the Government for a nominal rental. Leases were drawn up for nearly 1,500 acres of Crown land for use by farmers in connection with the Colonial Development and Welfare Agricultural Scheme.

FORESTRY

In 1966 a start was made on a scheme to reafforest the beaches in Grand Turk. To date, two plots of approximately one-third of an acre each have been fenced and planted with casuarina seedlings, the intention being that as they mature, they will re-seed themselves along the beaches where they appear to thrive under natural conditions.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is practically no agriculture carried on in the salt islands, but in the Caicos, corn, beans, and other crops are grown in sufficient quantity to satisfy local needs. The main problems are the saline conditions and the uncertain rainfall. In 1965 both crops failed due to drought. In 1966 the first crop failed and the second sowing was delayed due to lack of rain; the second harvest may be ready in February or March 1967. It was found necessary to provide labour to relieve famine conditions in the Caicos Islands in 1965 and again, except for a short period, in 1966.

Sisal production continues to fall and neither the quantity nor quality of the fibre warrants any optimism for the future. In 1965 over 29 tons were exported, but in 1966, owing to lack of shipping only 18 tons were exported. Over 16 tons will be carried forward to 1967, so the crop was comparable to that of 1965.

In most settlements a few cattle and pigs are kept and these are slaughtered to supplement meat supplies. On Grand Turk some of the farmers obtain waste food from the American bases and keep pigs of an improved quality.

It is encouraging to record that the revolving cattle scheme started in 1962 with the introduction of a Jamaica Red Bull and three heifers of the same breed, has been successful and that the stock is thriving.

The Agricultural Extension Officer continued his duties during the period under review and attended a short refresher course at the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica.

MINING

The oil exploration licence granted to the Bahama California Oil Company in 1955 was re-issued in 1965 and renewed in 1966. The results have so far been negative.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE education system of the islands is under the control of the Board of Education appointed by the Administrator under the Education Ordinance. The Administrator is Chairman of the Board. The Board has no facilities for raising its own revenue and is entirely dependent on the amount voted annually by the Legislature. During 1960 a law amending the Education Ordinance was passed, giving the Board of Education control over private schools and also authority to enforce compulsory attendance of all children of school age (7-14). Comprehensive regulations were published by the Board of Education in 1962 to enforce compulsory attendance, and to prescribe both the teachers' conditions of service and the conduct and management of schools.

There are 13 elementary schools which serve the six inhabited islands. Grand Turk School, consisting of a primary school and a secondary school, provides the only secondary education in the islands. The secondary school prepares pupils for the Cambridge General Certificate of Education, the London General Certificate of Education and the London Chamber of Commerce examinations.

Encouraging results at 'O' level were returned in 1965 and 1966 and the first 'A' level passes were attained by pupils of the secondary school in 1966. A modern studies sixth form has been added to the secondary school to enable pupils to study for 'A' levels. A commercial class in which instruction in typing, shorthand and book-keeping is given was formed in 1966 and it is progressing satisfactorily. A Technical Education instructor was recruited in the United Kingdom and arrived in May 1966. He supervised the erection and building of the classrooms to house the technical

education classes. By the end of 1966 artwork and carpentry classes were under way and it was hoped that the mechanical instruction would start in 1967 when new buildings would be connected to the electricity supply.

In 1966 the total number of names on the rolls was 1,688; the average figures for the past three years are:

	1964	1965	1966
Number on roll	1,514	1,545	1,688
Average attendance	1,420	1,430	1,490
Percentage attendance	93	92	90

Education is free and in addition eighteen scholarships worth £48 per annum are awarded to pupils from the out-islands attending the secondary school at Grand Turk. Most of the teachers in the Caicos schools are products of the local schools, and they are difficult to recruit. Over 90 per cent of the staff are women.

The period of this report saw the continuation of a campaign to raise the standard of education of the islands, and in particular that of Grand Turk School; the rise in expenditure on education is an indication of this development and figures for the past three years show £24,205 for 1964, £31,722 for 1965 and £35,113 for 1966.

Three assistant teachers were given bursaries to facilitate graduate studies at Universities in the United Kingdom and the University of the West Indies. These will return to serve on the staff of the secondary school. Three teachers were recruited from Barbados to carry on in place of those awarded bursaries.

During the period under review one student teacher returned to the territory after completing a training course in Jamaica. Two student teachers left for training in Jamaica in 1966. These courses have been financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

In September 1966, Miss F. H. Gwilliam, C.B.E., Education Adviser from the Ministry of Overseas Development, visited the territory and toured the Grand Turk School, and Salt Cay and South Caicos primary schools. Miss Gwilliam also attended a meeting of the Board of Education and advised on the future development of education in the islands. As a result of her visit it was possible to arrange for a local teacher to attend a year's course at Nottingham University under the Commonwealth Teacher Training Bursary Scheme, with a view to returning as an organiser and supervisor of primary education.

A school feeding programme was run throughout the period at Bottle Creek School, as most of the children in the settlement must travel long distances to and from school.

Most of the population are literate and there is a public library and reading room at Grand Turk. Grand Turk School also possesses a good library as does the school at Cockburn Harbour; several of the other schools possess small libraries.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health of the islands continued to be satisfactory. Except for a small outbreak of chickenpox in the settlement of Kew there were no outbreaks of any infectious diseases during the period under review. Outbreaks of gastro-enteritis occurred when the level of potable water in individuals' and Government tanks was at its lowest before the beginning of the rainy season. In 1965-66 the total cases of acute urethritis of gonococcal and non-specific origin was 139 and 54 cases of syphilis were treated. In addition 5 cases of leprosy and 8 cases of tuberculosis of the lungs were detected and adequately treated.

Facilities for general sanitation, and the collection, removal and disposal of garbage are not provided in all the islands, but in 1966 a start was made in Grand Turk by the purchase of a refuse disposal truck. Permanent staff operate the vehicle and sufficient rubbish bins are provided at convenient places in Grand Turk town. These are emptied twice weekly. This garbage is finally disposed of by dumping the salinas and then covering with a view to reclaiming the land. Plans are in hand to extend this facility to other major settlements in the Caicos group of islands beginning with East Harbour. The disposal of night soil is by means of provision of deep trench latrines in a majority of houses and water-borne disposal in newer or modernised houses. Deep trench latrines are below standard as their superstructures are not fly proof and the owners are often indifferent to proper maintenance. This is a major contributory cause in the spread of fly-borne diseases. There are also no existing food laws and the food handlers are not protected against preventable groups of diseases, nor are the food stores up to a satisfactory standard of hygiene.

The United States Department of Agriculture ended their programme of fly eradication by the release of large numbers of sterilized flies as the scheme had not proved a success in combatting the fly problem.

There is a shortage of potable water in all the islands. The annual rainfall would normally be sufficient if there was sufficient storage. A programme of construction of Government water tanks has been started and a scheme to assist private owners to construct their own tanks has had to be temporarily curtailed owing to lack of funds. Although no legislation exists to make the construction of water

tanks with private buildings compulsory, the new Development Control Act will ensure that buildings of a commercial nature such as hotels, lodges, flats, etc. will have to include adequate storage tanks in their plans. There have been occasions when the Government water reserves have fallen so low that the United States bases have been asked for assistance. At one stage in Grand Turk the population were on a ration of one gallon per day per person for some weeks. The ultimate aim would be to have a closed tank for each house, as the barrels and drums used to store water encourage mosquito breeding. For obvious reasons these cannot be treated with oils and chemicals and it is thought that the introduction of the mosquito larva eating fish "gambusia" may provide a solution.

The attendance at ante-natal clinics in Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, Bottle Creek, etc. remained satisfactory. The total number of births in the hospital clinics, as well as districts was 149 in 1965 and 199 in 1966.

Out-patients clinics were held in Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour five days a week, in addition to weekly ante and post natal clinics. In 1965 and 1966 the attendance in Grand Turk out patients department alone was 13,851; attendance at South Caicos for 1966 was 3,621 and a further 953 patients were seen during seventeen visits to other settlements.

In Grand Turk there is a 20-bed hospital and there are small clinics at Cockburn Harbour and Bottle Creek. Construction of the new clinic in Grand Turk started in 1966 and construction of the David Lawrence Memorial Clinic at Bottle Creek was almost completed by the end of the period under review.

The post of medical officer at Grand Turk was filled in March 1965 and the post of medical officer in charge of the Caicos Islands in February 1966. The medical officer, South Caicos, tours the larger Caicos Island communities and the medical officer, Grand Turk, visits Salt Cay every fortnight.

The staff at Grand Turk Hospital consisted of a matron, four staff nurses and six probationer nurses, and a trained midwife for dispensary and district ante and post natal work. There is also a public health inspector and a staff of two for preventive work. The medical officer at South Caicos has the help of a trained nurse, a dispensary assistant and a midwife. There is also a staff nurse at Bottle Creek, and a district midwife available at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, Cockburn Harbour, and Lorimers, and in addition 8 women who have received a simple training at Grand Turk hospital are available in the other small settlements in the Caicos Islands. Thus some form of medical help was available even in the more remote areas.

Government expenditure on the Medical Service was £26,639 in 1965 and £27,734 in 1966.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Church World Service continued to help with food supplies for the school feeding programme at Bottle Creek and for distribution to the poor. UNICEF also provided considerable quantities of dried milk for free distribution to pregnant women, nursing mothers and pre-school children in all the settlements.

The various churches and friendly societies, of which there are seven, do much good amongst their members in cases of distress and the Poor Relief Committees administer aid from Government funds to needy persons.

A cinema club, which is partly Government supported, shows films to the public in Grand Turk twice each week. A small admission fee is charged to cover the cost of hiring films. There is also a privately owned open air cinemascope movie theatre which is operated commercially and films are shown thrice weekly.

The most active welfare association in the islands is the Child Welfare Association at Grand Turk. The association runs a child welfare clinic each week which is attended by the medical officer. Members of the association also distribute full cream dried milk and vitamins to the mothers of young children. Funds are raised to support the activities of the association by the members. The association again put on Christmas parties for all children under six.

A child welfare clinic is also held in Cockburn Harbour and is attended by the medical officer.

The 13 branches of the Jamaican Federation of Women continued their activities during the period under review.

There are Boy Scout troops at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, and Girl Guide companies at Grand Turk and Salt Cay. Both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides established contact with their respective organisations in the Bahamas and were able to organise visits by prominent Boy Scout and Girl Guide representatives from Nassau. These visits proved highly successful and reinforced the efforts of the local Commissioners. During the period under review a small Brownie Pack was formed at Grand Turk.

Seven scouts and two scouters participated in the 1st Bahamas Jamboree at Eleuthera, Bahamas, and three girl guides attended an All-Island Jamboree in Jamaica during the period under review.

HOUSING

There has been continued improvement in the standard of housing both in Grand Turk and the Caicos Islands and an increasing number

of people are building well designed concrete block houses not only for their own use but also to lease to the families of American personnel serving on the island.

Approval has been given by the Governor for residents of the islands to have the opportunity to purchase the title to Crown land on which they build their houses provided the buildings are of a permanent nature and of a specified value. This scheme should do much to improve the standard of housing within the territory.

A particular effort to tidy and improve the looks of the townships of Cockburn Town and Cockburn Harbour was made prior to the Royal Visit and they now present a much improved appearance.

Chapter 8: Legislation

THE laws which were passed by the Legislative Assembly and assented to by the Administrator during 1965 and 1966 were as follows:

1965

1. The Supplementary Appropriation (January to December 1963) Law, 1964.
2. The Offences against the Person (Amendment) Law, 1964.
3. The Appropriation Law, 1965.
4. The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Law, 1965.
5. The Intoxicating Liquor Law, 1964.
6. The Music and Dancing Licences Law, 1964.
7. The Summary Offences (Amendment) Law, 1964.
8. The Intoxicating Liquor (Amendment) Law, 1965.
9. The Music and Dancing Licences (Amendment) Law, 1965.
10. The Customs (Amendment) Law, 1965.
11. The Recording of Deeds (Amendment) Law, 1965.
12. The Pilotage and Harbour (Amendment) Law, 1965.
13. The Pensions Law, 1964.
14. The Intoxicating Liquor (Further Amendment) Law, 1965.
15. The Supplementary Appropriation (January to December 1964) Law, 1965.
16. The Hotels Aid Law 1962 (Continuation and Amendment) Law, 1965.
17. The Appropriation Law, 1966.
18. The Planning and Development Law, 1965.



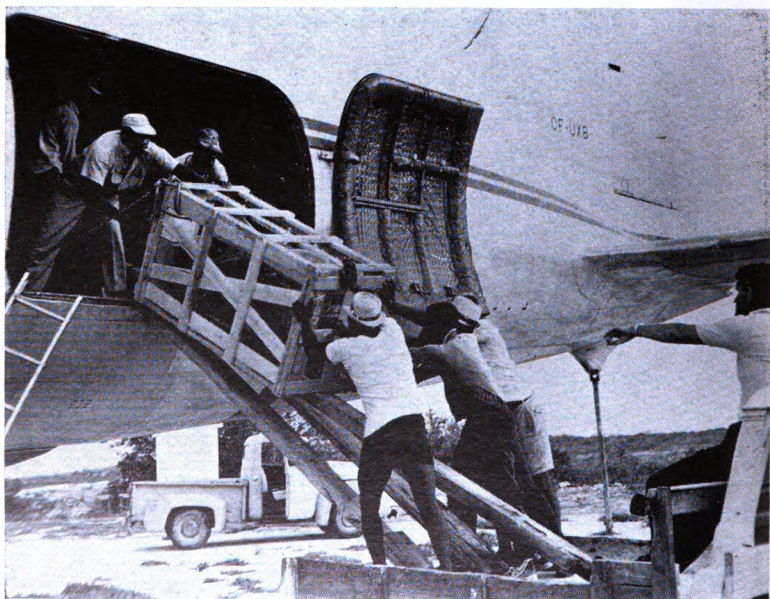
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness wave goodbye to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands on the conclusion of the Royal Visit on 25th February, 1966.



His Excellency Sir Ralph Grey, G.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., addressing the Legislative Assembly on assuming office as Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Turks and Caicos Air Services DC4M freight plane powered by Rolls Royce Merlin engines lands at Grand Turk on its inaugural flight.



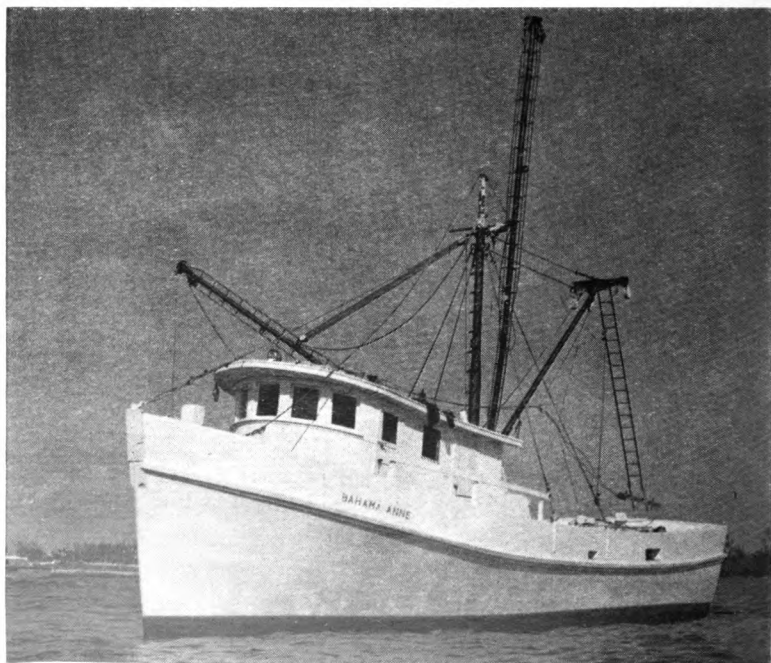
Freight being offloaded at South Caicos from the Turks and Caicos Air Services Canadair freight plane.



Her Majesty being presented with a bouquet on arrival at South Caicos.



The Honourable R. E. Basden, senior member of the Legislative Assembly, delivering the address of welcome to Her Majesty at Grand Turk on the occasion of the Royal Visit to the Islands.



The Fisheries Vessel purchased in 1966 now renamed M.V. Palinurus

1966

1. The Pensions Law 1965 (Retrospective Operation Law), 1966.
2. The Magistrates' Code of Procedure Ordinance (Amendment) Law, 1966.
3. The Magistrate (Validation) Law, 1966.
4. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Law, 1966.

The purposes of the more important of these laws are set out below.

It was found that the old Liquor Licence Law was not attuned to the granting of a variety of licences that were required with the development that is taking place, and it became necessary to differentiate between bars that were able to sell beer only and those that could sell beer, wines and spirits.

Some bars constructed patios for entertainment purposes where liquor was sold to guests, and the Music and Dancing Licences Law 1964 was passed to exercise control over the use to which such establishments were put. Provision was also made for the granting of hotel licences, club licences and restaurant licences.

The Pensions Law 1964 was passed to bring the law governing pensions into line with those of other Commonwealth countries.

It was considered that as one of the aims of economic development of the country was tourism, it would not be too soon to have a Planning and Development Law to give Government some powers of control over the type of development that would take place, and if necessary to prevent undesirable development.

The Hotels Aid Law, the object of which was to encourage the construction of hotels, was continued in force and extended so as to provide exemption for guest lodges.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE law in force in the islands consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the United Kingdom Parliament and the Bahamas and Jamaica Legislatures, and the ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By Order in Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica was empowered to extend its legislation to the islands, and this power

remained under the Order in Council of 1959 until 6th August 1962 when Jamaica became independent. Certain Federal Laws were applied to the islands during the short legislative life of the Federation of The West Indies. The constitution of 1962 enables the islands to retain such applied laws pending re-enactment.

The administration of justice is in the hands of a Magistrate. This officer also exercises extended jurisdiction as acting Judge of the Supreme Court, and in serious criminal cases the preliminary inquiry is either taken by one of the Justices of the Peace, of whom there are 30 in the islands, or a Judge is sent from Jamaica or the Bahamas to hold the Supreme Court hearing. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce cases.

Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Court of Appeal, which is also the Court of Appeal of the Bahama Islands. The Magistrate also acts as Registrar of Deeds.

The Magistrate holds court weekly at Grand Turk, every six weeks at Cockburn Harbour, and occasionally at Salt Cay, Bottle Creek, Blue Hills, and Kew. Extra sittings are held when required.

POLICE

The Police Force was honoured on the 21st April 1966 by Her Majesty the Queen, who graciously conferred the title "Royal" upon it, in recognition of services, during the Royal visit.

In July 1966 command of the Force changed to another gazetted police officer of staff rank in the colonial police service.

It proved impossible to obtain recruits to fill the vacancies existing since 1962 and those created by the resignations in December 1964 until November 1966. In this month two Caicos Island youths enlisted, leaving seven vacancies. A further three Caicos boys of only sixteen years of age were undergoing tests for recruitment towards the end of December 1966.

Advanced training of individual members of the Force is impossible whilst twenty-five per cent of the constable establishment remains vacant. This is a matter of great concern now that there are signs of development in the islands. An influx of tourists and other visitors will bring new problems of policing and the Force at its present strength is barely in a position to meet these problems.

There was a civil service salary revision towards the end of 1966 with retrospective payment dating back to April of the same year. Despite this increase, the Force has little attraction for youth of the Turks Islands and it is hoped to obtain recruits from outside these islands.

Throughout the period under review the Force has been greatly assisted by the continued attachment of two non-commissioned officers from the Royal Bahamas Police Force, serving for periods of about six weeks each.

In addition to the regular establishment, special constables are used on limited police duties at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour. In each of the settlements throughout the Caicos Islands there is a District Constable. Appointment to this post is made from amongst respected elderly men of the community who serve on a part-time basis. With the advent of tourism, building development and its attendant labour force, more efficient methods of policing the Caicos settlements will be required, including the deployment of trained regular members of the Force.

In 1965 one member of the Force underwent a fingerprint and photographic training course with the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

In 1966 transport and communication between settlements along the Caicos Bank was improved by the purchase of a fibreglass cabin launch and the installation of radio sets at Cockburn Harbour and on the launch.

THE PRISON

The prison at Grand Turk receives prisoners sentenced to terms of up to twelve months. Those sentenced to longer terms are sent to Jamaica and the difficulties encountered in conveying them there owing to the lack of shipping or a direct air service underlined the need for the law to be changed to provide for the detention of such persons in the Bahamas. The prison is a substantial building with adequate accommodation. The staff consists of three warders and a temporary wardress for female prisoners, under the command of a jailor. The prison population averages five convicts. Remands of persons awaiting trial are made to the prison when circumstances dictate the need to retain them in custody. This practice is seldom necessary. Persons convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in the Caicos Islands travel under police escort to the prison.

The Superintendent of Police acts as Inspector of Prisons and is Chairman of the Prison Board. Frequent visits are paid by ministers of religion and the medical officer. The health of the prisoners is good. Prisoners are employed in general work on Government projects and in breaking stones.

The prison is used from time to time to accommodate lunatics requiring restraint and constant surveillance as there is no asylum in the territory. Cases requiring prolonged treatment are sent to

Jamaica but considerable difficulty is encountered in arranging passages owing to the lack of shipping facilities between the islands and Jamaica. This arrangement is most unsatisfactory as the over-long detention of lunatics places an added strain upon an inadequate staff, the members of which are not trained to deal with sick persons.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

EXCEPT in Grand Turk, no public utilities in the normal sense can be said to exist as there is no piped water supply and no light or power. A very few houses have their own electric light generated from diesel-operated generators, and water-borne sanitation from brackish or salt water wells. In Grand Turk a public electricity supply with a capacity of 250 kW was introduced in 1964 and there has been a steady increase in the demand for electrical power. The more substantial houses have their own water storage tanks, impounding rain water from their roofs as this is the only source of potable water in the larger centres. There are a few fresh water wells in the Caicos Islands.

Most of the people in the three salt islands (Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos) rely for their water supply on the public tanks, where water is sold at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon. There are 29 of these tanks with a total capacity of 1,266,000 gallons as follows:

	<i>Number of Tanks</i>	<i>Gallons</i>
Grand Turk	11	737,000
Salt Cay	4	126,000
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	5	265,000
Kew	1	40,000
Blue Hills	1	20,000
Bottle Creek	2	28,000
Sandy Point	1	10,000
Lorimers	1	10,000
Conch Bar	1	10,000
Bambarra	1	10,000
Whitby	1	10,000
TOTAL	29	1,266,000

During 1965 and 1966 the following water tanks were completed:

	<i>Number of tanks</i>	<i>Capacity: Gallons</i>
Bottle Creek	1	18,000
Lorimers	1	10,000
Conch Bar	1	10,000
Bambarra	1	10,000
Whitby	1	10,000
TOTAL	5	58,000

There are also a number of Government wells, more or less brackish, used by cattle but useless for irrigation or for human consumption.

In 1965 and 1966 drought conditions were experienced in the islands and in Grand Turk the daily ration of water was reduced to 1 gallon per person per day for a short period. In 1965 the United States Air Force base assisted in supplying water until heavy rain reduced the shortage.

The construction of the electrical distribution system and the operation of the power supply was undertaken by an officer recruited under a British technical assistance scheme.

The Public Works Department is under the direction of a superintendent with a regular staff of three persons, others being employed when required. The department is also responsible for the labour force employed under the Works Programme.

Major projects undertaken by the Public Works Department during the period 1965-66.

In Grand Turk:

Erecting new prefabricated building for Technical School and classrooms

Construction of a new three bedroom Government quarter

Construction of Lock-up

Institution of new Mechanical Workshop and Heavy Equipment

Installation of Stone Crusher

At Bottle Creek:

Construction of new school building

Construction of new clinic

Construction of water tank

Other Caicos Settlements:

Four new water tanks

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

THERE are three ports in use: Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. At Grand Turk there is a pier, the property of the United States Government, with a depth of water alongside about 15 feet and permission may be obtained for its use. Larger vessels anchor in the roadstead.

The service between Kingston, Jamaica, and Grand Turk, bringing mail and supplies and taking out salt, was irregular during the period under review.

The M.V. *Santo Antonio* of the Carib Shipping Corporation plies regularly between Miami, Florida and Grand Turk, bringing fresh fruit, vegetables and frozen meat. There was an increase in the amount of freight and supplies shipped from Miami during the period under review.

The M.V. *Santa Lucia* of the Blue Ribbon Line calls every six weeks from New York via Miami, Florida, and Nassau, Bahamas.

Ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company provide a very important service from Amsterdam and a KNSM vessel calls every six weeks at Grand Turk.

Elders and Fyffes steamers out of Avonmouth pass regularly through the Turks Islands passage but do not call.

AIR SERVICES

The twice weekly Bahamas Airways service between Nassau and Grand Turk continued throughout the period under review and became established as a most important communication link with the outside world.

This service is nevertheless inadequate for the needs of the islands and either an increase in the number of weekly scheduled flights, or larger aircraft, will have to be provided to meet growing demands.

There was a large increase during 1966 in the number of private light aircraft calling at South Caicos to use the refuelling and guest house facilities introduced by Caicos Holdings Ltd.

In September 1966 the Turks and Caicos Islands Air Services Ltd. made the first route evaluation flight in their Canadair D.C.4 freight plane to the islands, since when four further freight carrying flights have been flown under contract to Caicos Holdings Ltd.

POSTAL SERVICES

A regular airmail service is maintained twice weekly by Bahamas Airways Limited on Mondays and Fridays. Closed bags of airmail are despatched daily from Jamaica and twice weekly from Great Britain and Nassau. Outgoing airmail is routed via Miami, United States of America, except for closed bags to Jamaica and Nassau.

Surface mail is normally sent to and from Kingston, Jamaica, but owing to the infrequency of this service an alternative means was temporarily provided with effect from 1966, whereby incoming mail from Great Britain and the United States of America is brought by sea from Miami, Florida, at three weekly intervals.

At the end of 1966 following recommendations made by Mr. W. K. Mackenzie, O.B.E., a United Kingdom Post Office official who visited the islands, work was started on the conversion of the Rigby building into a new General Post Office.

On the 1st October, 1966, a set of stamps (1d, 8d and 1/6d denominations) was issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the ties between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Great Britain.

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. operate a radio telephone service to Kingston with connections to the North American mainland. A law to renew the cable privileges of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. for a further twenty years was enacted in 1962, and the company's wireless licence was renewed at the same time.

The Government radio-telephone system, run in co-operation with Cable and Wireless provides a twice daily service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. Messages are broadcast to the Caicos settlements, where they are received on private receiving sets.

The radio communications network established in the Caicos Islands in 1963 using V.H.F. radio telephone equipment proved to be unsatisfactory. At the time of writing, approval of a C.D. & W. Scheme for the purchase of H.F. marine radios is awaited.

The Government operates a telephone service at Grand Turk which has the capacity for 100 connections. The central switchboard is in the prison and is operated by the prison staff.

ROADS

During the period under review, in Grand Turk with the assistance of the contractors from the United States Air Force base, the main roads in Grand Turk were resurfaced and over 4½ miles of road were graded and tarred. Minor roads in Grand Turk and roads in Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour are surfaced with scale from the salt ponds. This provides a hard and durable surface although it hastens deterioration of motor vehicles. There has been a considerable increase in the number of vehicles imported in Grand Turk and South Caicos during 1965 and 1966.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

THERE are no newspapers or periodicals in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Government Printing Office prints the Official Gazette each week. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited distributed a limited number of copies of the daily news bulletin for which the Government pays a subsidy. A monthly newspaper *The Torch* is published by the Grand Turk School literary society and is well received both at home and abroad.

There is no Government Information Service, but a short radio broadcast to the islands is made daily except Sundays by the courtesy of Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. operating from Grand Turk. This consists of a weather report and forecast (the latter provided by the United States Air Force base, Grand Turk), local items provided by Government, recordings of speeches and talks by the Governor, the Administrator, or his deputies, and finally notices concerning the various current social functions.

Using a cinema projector owned by Government, and a room at the Grand Turk School which had originally been built partly for this purpose, a voluntary cinema club organised a weekly cinema show throughout the period. A small charge for admission was made to cover the cost of hiring films.

With commendable initiative Bahama Buyers Limited now operates an open-air theatre in Grand Turk and films are shown three times a week. This provides an amenity much needed by the public.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Turks and Caicos Islands lie between latitude 21° and 22° north and longitude 71° and $72^{\circ} 30'$ west, to the south-east of the Bahama Islands. They are situated about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel, about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. No thorough survey of the group had ever been undertaken until recently. The gradual filling of creeks and occasional building up of small cays and islets has notably affected the contour of some of the Caicos Islands. The land area is estimated to be 166 square miles. The entire group extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, six uninhabited cays and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides. The geological structure of the Caicos Bank as described by Dr. Brown in his *Survey of sponge Grounds* (1938) is closely comparable to that of the Bahamas. A flat-topped rock consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin rises steeply from the ocean bed. This rock mass comprises the whole of the Caicos Bank and the Caicos islands and cays.

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands and cays separated from each other by narrow passages most of which are but a few hundred feet in width. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales (usually called locally Blue Hills) and West Caicos.

At varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef of living coral superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers which make navigation difficult.

The limestone on the islands is described by Dr. Brown as "weathered into the familiar Bahamian rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush". The inner or bank coast of the islands is usually mangrove and sea water swamp intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate, which has resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock. Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. Beginning from the north, the first consists of white mud or marl under some three to four feet of water; the second a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth, the third, and economically the most important, is a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as "The Bank". This ground has enough sand and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds and can, therefore, support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass, and burrowing animals (annelida mollusca and crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant on the surface. The last zone under shallow water consists of clean, shifting, biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide. At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found a barrier reef from whose edge soundings drop with spectacular suddenness.

The climate is good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60° to 90°. Although the period from April to November is generally warm, the heat is tempered by the prevailing winds. The weather from December to March is generally pleasant. Average rainfall is slightly above 20" per annum although the annual rainfall has been variable in recent years. For example 46 inches of rain was recorded in 1961 compared with 12 inches in 1962.

The islands have suffered periodically from the effects of hurricanes. The hurricane of 1945 caused great destruction, the wind velocity exceeding 150 miles per hour. In September 1960 hurricane "Donna" did some harm to Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour, but its full force struck the Caicos Islands where it did great damage. Its accompanying tidal wave carved out a new mouth to Bottle Creek and isolated the settlement of Whitby by a lake of sea water. In 1963 hurricanes "Edith" and "Flora" gave concern to the inhabitants of the islands. In the event, hurricane "Flora" did considerable damage to crops and to sloops in the Caicos Islands but the damage could in no way be compared with that of hurricane "Donna". In 1966 some damage was done to sea defences in Grand Turk by hurricane "Faith" which passed 65 miles to the east-north-east of the island.

Chapter 2: History

THE Turks Islands are said to derive their name from a species of cactus (*Echinocactus Myriostigma*) whose scarlet flower resembles a Turkish fez. The origin of the name "Caicos" is uncertain, but it is possible that the name is derived from the Spanish name "Cayos" for cays.

The islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. Some historians in the past have sought to identify Grand Turk with Columbus' first landfall, and this theory which was once discredited has recently been put forward again. At the time of their discovery the islands were apparently uninhabited, though traces of a primitive culture have been found in several of the Caicos Islands and in particular in a cave in Middle Caicos. The first recorded English contact was in 1585 when Sir Richard Grenville's ships, while en route for Raleigh's Roanoke Island colony, stopped at "a small island", possibly Great Sand Cay, and hunted seals, then searched unsuccessfully for salt at "the island of Caycos". Two years later, other Roanoke-bound ships made a similar fruitless search for salt "at the Island Caycos".

The first European occupation was by Bermudians who, beginning at least as early as 1678, came regularly for salt about March, remaining until around November when the salt raking season was over, but sometimes stayed throughout the year. In 1710 they were expelled by the Spaniards but soon returned and resumed their salt raking activity despite occasional further Spanish interruptions. Following a similar expulsion by the French from Haiti in 1764, an agent, Andrew Symmer, was appointed in 1766 "to reside there, and by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the islands to His Majesty". This was the first regularly established government.

By Order-in-Council in 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order among the inhabitants. Around 1790 a number of loyalists, principally persons who fled from Georgia in 1783, obtained individual grants in the Caicos Islands and established plantations there. Some customs and idiomatic expressions of southern United States origin still survive, though many of the plantations were abandoned as economic units after the disastrous hurricane of 1811, and none now remains.

In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government (which had long claimed jurisdiction), but in 1848 in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the government. The system proved too expensive, however, and in 1873 the inhabitants petitioned the Crown for abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica as one of its dependencies. In July 1959 a new constitution was introduced, providing for an Executive Council to advise the Administrator, who administered the islands under the Governor of Jamaica, who, by virtue of his office, was also the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During 1961 the islands negotiated to become an associated territory of the Federation of the West Indies, but all hopes of this were lost when Jamaica decided to withdraw from it. Negotiations then followed to become an associated territory of Jamaica on its independence, but the clear wish of the people was to remain as a British colony. So on 6th August 1962 another new constitution was introduced, similar to that of 1959, but transferring the powers held by the Governor to the Administrator. In fact this was a return to the system of government introduced in 1848 and abandoned in 1873.

New elections were held in September 1962, following which, for the first time, the "membership" system was introduced, whereby the two unofficial members of the Executive Council share more directly in the responsibilities of government.

On the 5th November 1965, the Constitution was further amended whereby the Governor of the Bahamas also became the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The two territories now also share a common bench in their Court of Appeal.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are in the "hurricane track". During the past hundred years severe hurricanes have struck in 1866, 1873, 1888, 1908, 1926 (two within as many months), 1928, 1945, and 1960, the most severe being those of 1866, 1945 and 1960. Over £40,000 was spent on repairing damage inflicted by the 1945 hurricane, and even that sum was inadequate for more than partial rehabilitation. From September to December 1960 over £30,000 was spent in emergency relief, mostly in Caicos, and a further £56,000 out of a total approved grant of £94,000, was spent in 1961 and 1962.

A number of endeavours were made, beginning in 1873, to subsidise a regular steamer service with Jamaica, but usually with only short-lived success. In 1943 arrangements were made for the *M.V. Kirksons* of Cayman Islands registry to make a minimum of twelve

round trips annually between Kingston and Grand Turk. In 1955 this service was taken over by the M.V. *Kirkland* of Honduran registry, in 1957 by the M.V. *Kirksons* and in 1960 by the M.V. *Carib Queen*. The latter was destroyed by fire in 1963 and the M.V. *Merco* undertook the run until November 1965 when she sank while en route from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands. In 1960 the M.V. *Miss Shell Factory* started carrying conch shells to Miami about every six weeks, and this continued until she sank in hurricane "Betsy" while en route for Nassau; there was no loss of life.

The M.V. *Santo Antonio* has run regularly between Miami and Grand Turk with fresh supplies during the period under review.

The first cable was landed at Grand Turk in 1898 by the Halifax Cable Company (later called the Direct West India Cable Company Limited) and Grand Turk came to be an important cable station. In 1923, an inter-island radio service was inaugurated and was operated until 1941, when the Grand Turk station was taken over by Cable and Wireless who also took over the Direct West India Cable Company's cables. The Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour stations, which work in conjunction with Cable and Wireless Limited are still operated by the Government. This is believed to have been the first radio-telephone service ever operated by a British dependency. Cable and Wireless Limited established wireless connection with the Dominican Republic in 1941 and a direct radio-telephone service from Kingston, Jamaica, on 1st December 1947.

Following the evolution of the automatically repeated deep-sea telephone cable when long distances could be successfully traversed without the aid of manned relay stations, the importance of the Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd.'s branch in Grand Turk as a manned relay station declined sharply.

At the end of 1964, the old submarine cables were declared redundant and the branch was completely reorganised to provide a telegraph and telephone link to the outside world via wireless circuits with Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. Kingston, Jamaica.

In September 1966 the first direct telephone call was made between Australia and The Turks and Caicos Islands. This link with the Australian continent is another stage in the continuing endeavour of Cable and Wireless Ltd. to cover every part of the globe with telephonic communications. It is a part of the development programme carried out by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board to cover every part of the Commonwealth.

During the Second World War an anti-aircraft battery was stationed at Grand Turk. The previous garrison, a detachment of the first West India Regiment, had been withdrawn over eighty years before. A temporary air base was established on South Caicos

by the United States in 1944 and an airstrip constructed. The airstrip was handed over to the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in 1947. In the period under review this airstrip has been used by approximately 100 light aircraft each month using the refuelling and guest lodge facilities of Caicos Holdings Ltd.

A small airstrip for light aircraft was constructed at Grand Turk in 1947. A regular fortnightly air service between Ciudad Trujillo (Dominican Republic) and Grand Turk was inaugurated in 1949, but was abandoned in 1951 owing to the high cost of mail subsidy. Later in 1952 Caribbean International Airways began a monthly service from Kingston to the islands, but were forced to discontinue the service owing to the loss of their aircraft early the following year. A monthly service was then inaugurated by British West Indian Airways but this had to be discontinued at the end of 1954 as it proved too expensive. In March 1956 a weekly air service between Nassau and Grand Turk was commenced by Bahamas Airways Ltd. During the latter half of 1962, at the beginning of the winter tourist season in the Bahamas, this service became twice weekly, and continued so throughout the period under review.

As a result of an agreement with the United States Government, permission has been granted to the Bahamas Airways Ltd. to use the airfield on Grand Turk operated as part of the Guided Missile base.

The salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands was from 1744 onwards worked on a "head right" system under which an allocation of salt ponds was made on 10th February of each year to every free-man present. In 1845 this was changed to a leasehold system and in 1863 to a freehold system when the lessees received the freehold of their properties in return for a royalty in perpetuity of 10 per cent of the value of the salt exported. In 1951 under the Salt Industry (Transfer of Ownership) Ordinance the salinas and all ancillary property were vested in a Government-controlled company, the Turks Islands Salt Company Limited, which also received exclusive right to export salt from the islands, the freeholders then receiving one third of the assessed value of their property in cash and two thirds in preference shares. This was the third great change in the method of tenure in the history of the salt industry. In 1961, with funds generously made available by the Federal Government of the West Indies, these preference shares were redeemed by the Turks Islands Government. In September 1962 the Salt Industry Board was wound up and its assets distributed. Thus again there is full government ownership of the industry, as there was before 1845.

The salt operations at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour were finally closed down in December 1964. Operations continue on a reduced scale at Salt Cay.

On 25th February 1966, Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in the course of the Royal Tour of the West Indies visited Grand Turk and South Caicos—the first occasion that a reigning monarch has so honoured the islands.

*Chapter 3: Administration **

THE islands are administered by an Administrator who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Having completed over six years service as Administrator of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Mr. G. C. Guy, C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E., left the islands on 15th January 1965 to take up his post as Administrator of Dominica. Mr. R. E. Wainwright, C.M.G., acted in the post of Administrator handing over to Mr. J. A. Golding, C.V.O., on the 5th May, 1965, who held the post during the balance of the period under review.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk.

The laws of the islands are passed by the Legislative Assembly over which the Administrator presides or, in his absence, a Deputy President elected by the members of the Assembly. The Assembly consists of the Administrator, not less than two nor more than three official members, not less than two nor more than three nominated members, and nine elected members, representing nine constituencies and chosen by secret ballot and by universal adult suffrage. Before 6th August 1962 the Assembly exercised full legislative and budgetary powers, subject to the assent of the Governor, and it was the practice for all legislation to be examined in Jamaica and to receive the Governor's approval before being introduced. After the 6th August the Governor's powers passed to the Administrator. On the 5th November 1965, the Constitution was further amended whereby the Governor of the Bahamas also became the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The two territories now also share a common Bench in their Court of Appeal.

There is also an Executive Council, which the Administrator is obliged to consult on all important matters. It consists of two official members and one nominated member appointed by the Administrator

* Details of the new Constitution introduced in November 1965 are published in Statutory Instrument No. 1861, The Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order in Council, 1965.

with the approval of the Secretary of State, and two elected members elected by the nominated and elected members of the Assembly from among the elected members. The Administrator presides. A District Commissioner who is responsible for the day to day administration of the Caicos Islands was appointed in 1966, and is stationed in Cockburn Harbour.

A Government Officer is stationed at Salt Cay and also at Cockburn Harbour, which are ports of entry, to maintain customs, postal and other services. The Caicos Islands are divided for administrative purposes into four District Board areas, namely Middle Caicos with the settlements of Lorimers, Bambarra, and Conch Bar; Bottle Creek and Kew on North Caicos; and Blue Hills (Providenciales). These areas also form the constituencies for the Legislative Assembly. The District Boards normally consist of eight persons who include the District Constable, the elected member of the Legislative Assembly and usually the school teacher who acts as secretary. Appointments are made by the Administrator after holding unofficial elections.

During the period under review the Administrator made three tours to the Caicos Islands, and the District Commissioner has regularly toured the settlements since his appointment and a much closer and more efficient administration has been possible.

The policy of endeavouring to build up some form of responsible government in the Caicos Islands has been pursued and all the District Boards receive allocations to be spent on local works, details of which are submitted to the Administrator for approval.

Membership of the Legislative Assembly at the end of 1966 was as follows:

Official:

J. A. Golding C.V.O.	(Administrator) President
A. A. M. Tatem, M.B.E.	Treasurer
F. F. Dempsey	Magistrate

Nominated:

G. E. M. Ewing, O.B.E.	(Cockburn Harbour)
J. N. Morgan, M.B.E.	(Salt Cay)
E. T. Wood, O.B.E., I.S.O.	(Grand Turk)

Elected:

R. E. Basden	(Grand Turk)
L. H. Francis	(Grand Turk)
A. A. Simons	(Grand Turk)
T. C. Taylor	(Salt Cay)
L. C. Stubbs	(Cockburn Harbour)
T. E. Higgs	(Middle Caicos)
O. J. Gardiner	(Bottle Creek)
H. St. G. Robinson	(Kew)
G. O. Lightbourne	(Providenciales)

To reflect the shift of population confirmed by the census of 1960, legislation was introduced in April 1961 to increase the number of seats at Grand Turk from two to three, and to reduce the number at Bottle Creek from two to one, the number of elected members in the Assembly thus remaining the same.

At its first meeting on 3rd October 1962, the Assembly re-elected Mr. R. E. Basden and Mr. L. H. Francis as the unofficial members of the Executive Council, which they had been in the previous Assembly. They thus became the first unofficial members to take part in the "membership" system.

Cordial relations were maintained with personnel of the United States Air Force Base, the United States Naval Facility, on Grand Turk, and the United States Coastguard Station on South Caicos. Mention must also be made of the continued support and assistance given in so many ways by the two American Bases on Grand Turk. A joint operation was launched when the Base contractors were resurfacing roads on the island, to tar Front Street, the road to the hospital, and the road to the TPQ 18 site on the east shore of the island.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Chapter 5: Reading List

BROWN, Dr. H. H. *Survey of Sponge Grounds.* Jamaica, Government Printer, 1938.

Financial and Economic Position: Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. London, Crown Agents, for the Government of Jamaica, 1937.

Jamaica Department of Statistics. *West Indies Population Census, 1960.* Bulletins Nos. 12 and 16. *Cayman and Turks and Caicos Islands.*

PUSEY, Rev. J. H. *Handbook of the Turks and Caicos Islands.* Kingston, Colonial Publishing Company Ltd., 1897 (out of print).

TATEM, W. R. *Report on the Hurricanes of 1926 and 1928.* London Waterlow, for the Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, 1928.

Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1959. H.M.S.O., 1959 (Statutory Instrument No. 864 of 1959).

Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1962. H.M.S.O., 1962 (Statutory Instrument No. 1649 of 1962).

WALTON-SMITH, F. G. *The Spiny Lobster Industry of the Caribbean and Florida.* Port of Spain, Caribbean Commission, 1959. (Caribbean Commission Fishery Series No. 3).

WATKINS, F. H. *Report on Sponges and the Sponge Industry.* Jamaica, Government Printer, 1913.

WATKINS, F. H. *Turks and Caicos Islands: Report on the Salt Industry.* Cd. 4326. H.M.S.O., 1908.

Turks and Caicos Islands (Constitution) Order-in-Council, 1965. H.M.S.O., 1965 (Statutory Instrument No. 1861 of 1965).

APPENDIX I

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during the years 1965 and 1966

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Approved Grant	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/66	
			C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
	<i>Minor Amenities:</i>	£	£	£
D4093(17)	Provision storage for dried Milk	100	85	—
D4093(82)	Construction of a Community Centre at Salt Cay	335	249	—
D4093(83)	Construction of a Community Centre at Lorimers	133	92	—
	<i>Training:</i>			
D4071A (210)	3 months X-Ray Course at Kingston Public Hospital (Mr. J. Ariza)	222	—	—
D5969 (11 & A)	One year secretarial training course at the Alpha Commercial College, Jamaica (Miss I. Williams)	444	414	—
D5969 (12 & A)	16 months secretarial training course at the Alpha Commercial College, Jamaica (Miss D. Grant)	592	499	—
D5969(13)	Three months finger print training in Bahamas Police Force (Police Constable A. A. Grant)	162	114	—
D5969(69)	Two months veterinary training in Jamaica (Mr. C. C. Williams)	160	160	—
D5969(103)	Three months training (attachment) in court work in Nassau (Mr. C. T. Taylor)	180	81	—
D6615(7)	Three months training (attachment) in Laboratory work at Princess Margaret Hospital, Nassau (Mr. J. McD. Skippings)	140	33	—
D6615(8)	16 months secretarial training course at the Alpha Commercial College, Jamaica. (Miss I. Williams). Supplementary to grants totalling £444 approved as Courses 11 and 11A under Scheme D5969)	148	120	—
	<i>Scholarships:</i>			
D4092(47)	Training of Gloria Aslene Light- bourne at Shortwood Training College	790	762	5
	<i>Carried forward</i>	3,406	2,609	5

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/66		
		Approved Grant	C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
	<i>Brought forward</i>	£ 3,406	£ 2,609	£ 5
D4092(108)	Dentistry Course at University of Toronto (Mr. St. Leo Astwood)	1,875	581	—
D5659A(50)	Two year Teacher Training Course at the Mico Training College (Mr. C. R. Williams)	670	627	—
D5659A(51)	Three year Teacher Training Course at the Shortwood Training College, Jamaica (Miss G. E. Gardiner)	690	642	—
D5659A(52)	One year's pre-medical Training at the New York State University (Mr. H. Malcolm)	786	541	—
D5659A(58)	Three year course at the University of the West Indies leading to a B.A. Special Degree (Mr. W. L. Inniss)	375	374	25
D5659A(59)	Three year course at the University of the West Indies leading to a B.A. Special Degree (Mr. A. W. A. McClean)	375	374	25
D6559(12)	Two year teacher training at the Mico Training College, Jamaica. (Mr. C. R. Williams). (Supplementary grant of £670 approved as Course No. 50 under Scheme D5659A)	134	90	—
D6559(13)	Three year teacher training Course at the Shortwood Training College, Jamaica. (Miss G. E. Gardiner) (Supplementary to grant of £690 approved as Course No. 51 under Scheme D5659A)	138	68	—
D6559(14)	Three year course at the University of the West Indies leading to B.A. General Degree (Mr. W. L. Inniss) (Supplementary to grant of £375 approved as Course No. 58 under Scheme D5659A)	878	557	—
D6559(15)	Three year course at the University of the West Indies leading to B.A. Special Degree (Mr. A. W. A. McClean) (Supplementary to grant of £375 approved as course No. 59 under Scheme D5659A)	878	557	—
D6559(34)	Two year teacher training Course at Mico College, Jamaica (Mr. G. C. Clarke)	654	119	—
	<i>Carried forward</i>	10,859	7,139	55

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/66		
		Approved Grant	C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
	<i>Brought forward</i>	10,859	7,139	55
D6559(35)	Three year teacher training course at Shortwood College, Jamaica (Mrs. Eliza Simons)	694	166	—
	<i>Grants:</i>			
D3428	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Co.	5,000	5,000	—
D3690	Provision of working capital for Turks Islands Salt Co.	5,000	5,000	—
D3834 & A	Agricultural Development, Caicos Islands	15,448	12,449	—
D3843	Improvement of Minor Amenities, Caicos Islands	2,000	1,875	—
D3991	X-ray Unit, Grand Turk Hospital	4,800	4,436	—
D4105	Employment of Manager for Turks Islands Salt Company for three years	8,040	3,303	—
D4498	To train a Doctor for service in the Turks and Caicos Islands	2,500	2,190	—
D4502 & A & B	Employment of expatriate Head- master, Grand Turk School	9,821	6,994	5,557
D4549 & A	Provision of Wireless Transmitting and Receiving sets in the Caicos settlements	4,527	4,381	44
D5078 & A	Employment of Manager for Turks Islands Salt Company	7,543	7,033	—
D5197B	Provision of funds to cover estab- lishment and Operating cost of Electricity Project	5,674	3,492	—
D6010	Purchase of Light Grab and Diesel- engined winch for dredging	1,300	1,264	—
D6121 & A	Scholarships for out-island children	2,263	728	—
D6242 & A	Training awards for Teachers	3,399	1,308	—
D6243	David Lawrence Memorial Health Clinic, Bottle Creek	1,500	771	1,000
D6274 & A	New Classroom accommodation, Grand Turk School	4,605	4,177	—
D6275 & A	Establishment of Technical Educa- tion Department, Grand Turk School	6,903	4,373	—
D6276 & A	Employment of Technical Education Instructor	3,018	1,085	—
D6287	Construction of Water Tanks in the Caicos Islands	4,800	3,108	—
D6436 & A	Construction of temporary airstrip in Providenciales	990	692	—
D6461	Employment of Fisheries Officer	4,048	1,324	461
D6466 & A & B	Public Works Equipment	26,759	16,478	—
	<i>Carried forward</i>	141,491	98,766	7,117

Scheme Number	Title of Scheme	Revised Expenditure to 31/12/66		
		Approved Grant	C.D. & W. Funds	Local Resources
		£	£	£
	<i>Brought forward</i>	141,491	98,766	7,117
D6576	Employment of Civil Engineer	3,023	772	393
D6590	Construction of Clinic, Grand Turk	4,000	2,205	—
D6616	Reafforestation of Beaches on Grand Turk	500	77	—
D6650	Construction of water tank, Grand Turk	9,000	40	—
D6672	Establishment of a Lands Office in the Turks and Caicos Islands	26,340	173	—
		<u>£184,354</u>	<u>£102,033</u>	<u>£7,510</u>
		<i>Approved Loans</i>		
		£	£	£
D3834 & A	Agricultural Development	4,500	562	—
D4986	Establishment of Poultry Farm in Grand Turk to provide eggs and broilers.			
	Loan issued December 27, 1961	500	500	—
D5197 & A	Electricity Project	23,265	23,095	712
D6375 & A	Establishment of Guest House Rest- aurant, Grand Turk	10,500	10,500	—
D6659	Revolving Loan fund for construc- tion of domestic water tanks	3,000	—	—
		<u>£41,765</u>	<u>£34,657</u>	<u>£712</u>

APPENDIX II

Cases of Crime reported to the Police in 1965 and 1966

A: Number of Cases

Crime	Total cases known or reported to the Police		Total dealt with	Acquitted or Discharged		Nolle Prosequi	Disposal of Accepted Cases		Proven/bound over or Admon./ Dis.		Closed undetected		Pending investigation	
	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966
<i>Against Lawful Authority:</i>														
Against Public Order	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and Rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Public Morality:</i>														
Rape and Indecent Assault	5	1	5	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the Person:</i>														
Attempted Murder and Suicide	17	17	17	17	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous Harm, Wounding, etc.	2	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Property:</i>														
Thefts and other Stealing	24	27	24	27	11	8	4	—	1	1	2	5	2	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	19	22	19	22	2	2	7	1	—	—	2	11	—	—
Arson	2	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	12	6	12	6	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	82	78	82	78	17	15	13	2	44	39	4	16	—	2

B: Number of Persons in 1965

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted											
				Total		Imprison- ment			Corporal punishment			Fined		Order made	
				M	F	M	F	Juv.	M	F	Juv.	M	F	M	F
<i>Against Lawful Authority:</i>															
Against Public Order	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and Rescue	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Public Morality:</i>															
Rape and Indecent Assault	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
<i>Against the Person:</i>															
Grievous Harm, Wounding, etc.	20	1	—	18	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Assaults	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Property:</i>															
Thefts and other Stealing	18	4	2	12	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	12	—	—	9	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	3	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	62	5	2	51	4	33	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	9	—

C: Number of Persons in 1966

Crime	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted or discharged	Nolle prosequi	Numbers convicted											
				Total		Imprison- ment		Corporal punishment		Fined		Order made			
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<i>Against Lawful Authority:</i>															
Against Public Order	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and Rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Public Morality:</i>															
Rape and Indecent Assault	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the Person:</i>															
Grievous Harm, Wounding, etc.	17	1	—	15	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Assaults	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	4	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Property:</i>															
Thefts and other Stealing	25	7	—	11	7	4	2	—	—	5	2	—	—	2	3
Burglary, house and store breaking	7	2	—	4	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	6	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	62	14	2	37	9	16	3	—	—	13	2	—	—	8	4

APPENDIX III

Establishment and Strength of Police Force as at 31st December, 1966

	S.P.	Sgts.	Cpls.	1st Class Constables	Constables	Women Constables	District Constables
Establishment . . .	1	2	1	3	12	1	12
Strength . . .	1	2	1	3	8*	1	11

* Includes 5 Recruits under training

APPENDIX IV

Prosecutions by the Police in respect of Statutory Offences in 1965 and 1966

A : Cases dealt with

<i>Offences</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Convicted</i>		<i>Discharged</i>		<i>Pending investigation or Trial</i>	
	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966	1965	1966
Against Traffic Law	9	7	7	5	2	2	—	—
Against Township Ordinance	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Against Liquor Law	2	5	2	5	—	—	—	—
Against Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	108	81	88	74	20	2	—	5
TOTAL	119	95	97	86	22	4	—	5

B : Persons Convicted

Offences	Total		Imprisonment		Fined		Corporal Punishment		Order made	
	M '65 '66	F '65 '66	M '65 '66	F '65 '66	M '65 '66	F '65 '66	M '65 '66	F '65 '66	M '65 '66	F '65 '66
Against Traffic Law . . .	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Against Township Ordinance . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Against Liquor Law . . .	1	3	3	2	—	1	2	2	1	1
Against Gambling . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences . . .	85	48	41	37	11	7	2	1	19	26
TOTAL . . .	93	57	46	40	11	8	2	1	21	29
									13	15

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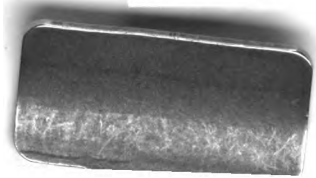
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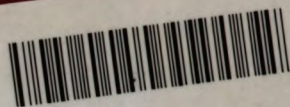


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